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THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2012

## Principal unveils multi-million pound vision

# 'Super college campus' plan for Waterfront

A multi-million pound campus could become a feature of the regenerated Waterfront in Barry.

Cardiff and Vale College would like to move from its site on Colcot Road and create a state-of-the-art educational facility that would benefit generations of young people.

The plans were revealed by the college principal, Mr Mike James, at a business breakfast hosted by the Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, last week.

Following the meeting, Mr James told The

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

GEM that the college had ambitious plans to develop over a 10-year period.

He said the first priority was addressing the issue of its sites in Cardiff, including the proposal of a new building.

He explained: "Our next priority is the Vale. We have a long-term vision of moving our Barry provision to a purpose-built college on Barry Waterfront.

"The current site at Colcot Road has been here for more than 50 years and, although it has served the community well, many areas of the site now require upgrad-

ing.

"We are looking at a range of options, including upgrading our existing site, and the preferred option of developing a new building.

"The preferred option is to relocate to a new building in Barry, and of the available sites locally, the Waterfront is the preferred location.

"Consequently, we are working with partners, including the local authority and Welsh Government, to examine the feasibility of delivering this."

Mr James said the college's vision was to provide "a world-class, inspirational skills training facility for years to come".

The Vale's AM Jane Hutt told The GEM: "The new principal of Cardiff and Vale College, Mike James, made clear his intention to expand provision of skills and learning opportunities for young people in the Vale, with capital investment in due course to meet these needs."

Mr Paul Haley of Pride in Barry, who attended the business breakfast, said he was excited that Mr James had spoken of the possibility of Barry Waterfront hosting a college super campus.

Mr Haley said: "It is fantastic that the Waterfront appears to be earmarked as the location for a special development which will enhance skills and education for today's employment market."

Mr Haley said it demonstrated the confidence decision makers now had in the town, proving that it was an attractive place to deliver first class facilities.

'DIALOGUE'  
 Alun Cairns, the local MP, said that while the plans threw up lots of opportunities, there would also be a local debate as to what would happen to the Colcot Road site.

very early stage and there are many issues that would need to be resolved first.

"Without doubt, it is an excellent opportunity for the college, and could make Barry the further education centre for south Wales.

"It raises serious questions, however, around the existing site. I have already spoken to a number of local residents who have expressed concern.

"The college needs to establish a dialogue with all involved as soon as possible."

Plaid Cymru's local spokesman Dr Ian Johnson welcomed the plans and said it could provide further impetus for the local economy.

"Having the college on the Waterfront could play a major role in revitalising the area.

"To make this happen, there would need to be a multi-million pound investment from the Welsh Government. Exactly how much are they proposing to contribute to the scheme?"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



Wembley bound from left to right: Evan Wells, Rhys Woolmer, Matthew Mayor, Dillon Lee, Sion Spence, Joe Allwood, William Drew, Sam Hopkins and their PE teacher Dawn Dobbs.

## Romilly footballers win dream appearance at Wembley Stadium

ROMILLY Primary School pupils won an Anglo-Welsh football competition and will now play at one of world football's most famous venues - Wembley Stadium.

The boys will take part in a match before the Championship play-off final on May 19.

Some of the world's

greatest players - including Pele - didn't get the chance to perform on the hallowed turf at Wembley and everyone connected with the team is naturally thrilled - as a team spokesman explained: "The boys and parents are overwhelmed and ecstatic."

"Congratulations go to the players and their teacher, Dawn Dobbs, for their massive efforts."

Romilly Primary School took part in the 'Kids Cup Southern England and Wales nPower Finals' in Reading on March 12 with the tantalising prospect of a Wembley appearance being the prize.

The boys had won earlier tournaments for the right to represent their local league club Cardiff City in the

Reading competition.

The spokesman explained that in the first team by beating Crystal Palace by two goals to one in a very difficult match.

"The final was contested against the boys' earlier group opponents Portsmouth, who had beaten Watford in the other semi-final. In the final, they won 3 - 0."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

"This ensured a semi-final place, where they emulated Cardiff City first team by beating Crystal Palace by two goals to one in a very difficult match.

"The final was contested against the boys' earlier group opponents Portsmouth, who had beaten Watford in the other semi-final. In the final, they won 3 - 0."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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## Scrap homes plan on livestock market

**C**OWBRIDGE is desperately short of parking at peak times on weekdays and at weekends, let alone when there are special events taking place (eg the food festival).

The arrival of Waitrose is expected to generate an increase of trade in Cowbridge as shoppers from

Cowbridge and the surrounding villages elect to shop in the town instead of Bridgend or Culverhouse.

And yet, in the new Local Development Plan, it is proposed to build houses on the livestock market site; thereby reducing Cowbridge parking capacity by about 100 spaces net.

Cowbridge has a thriving local economy based on a healthy mix of local trade and "destination shopping".

The latter category supports the ladies fashion outlets and, by

extension, the hair dressing salons, gift shops, cafes and restaurants.

These shoppers come to Cowbridge to enjoy the charm of the place with no hassle. Their trips are discretionary; if they cannot park, they will not come.

Vale Council planners should take a look round the high streets of the UK. The general blight and dereliction is largely due to ill judged planning decisions.

Do we want our traders to thrive?

Do we want continuing investment and employment in Cowbridge?

Does the Vale Council want to generate increasing business property tax revenue in future?

If yes, then scrap the housing on the livestock market site, and let's have adequate parking; 2,700 signatories asked for this by petition in 2006 and the Vale Council seems to be ignoring their wishes.

**Steven A Thomas**  
Cowbridge

## Fracking inquiry: 'Dwr Cymru is the wrong target'

**D**WR CYMRU are quite justified in saying their current water supplies are hardly touched by the proposed fracking (GEM, March 8), as their only local source is the Schwyll aquifer with springs near Ewenny that used to supply Bridgend.

It's the Vale Council that is responsible for the individual water sources, including those used for agriculture. Instead of relying on Dwr Cymru, they should be getting together a case, including expert evidence, that these may be at risk.

The council should argue that the relatively shallow strata for fracking - in this case only 650 metres, not the normal 2,000 metres - are more likely to pollute groundwater, as has been found in the USA.

It's also the Environment Agency Wales (EAW) that is responsible for the groundwater directive,

which covers all aquifers, not just those currently drawn on for drinking water. Friends of the Earth established their responsibility at the Aberthaw quarry inquiry, when the EAW proposed to ignore the minor aquifer under the site.

The EAW's John Harrison told the council seminar that the EAW would consider aquifer pollution only when an application to extract gas was made. But they should argue that exploratory drilling is an integral part of fracking and that in the absence of other information fracking in shallow strata must be presumed to pollute local aquifers, which are given absolute protection under the groundwater directive.

So let's not criticise and pressurise Dwr Cymru, but the Vale Council and EAW. They both have to prepare full cases and may now need to ask the Planning Inspectorate for extra time to do so.

**Max Wallis,**  
Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth

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### Readers' Letters

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## 'The privileges I would like Wales to have, too'

**I'D like to respond to Mr Gerald Smith's letter regarding my recent column in The GEM which focused on the Local Development Plan.**

The purpose of my article was to highlight the issue of new housing development plans being potentially forced on communities across the Vale, as part of the Deposit Plan that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has published, currently under public consultation.

I was keen to point out that the Welsh Government has restricted all local authorities and has set the Vale targets and processes on how they should determine the planning guidelines that will affect its residents and businesses for the next 15 years.

The point I was making is that the Localism Act in England means that the demand for new housing or commercial development within their environments comes from the communities themselves, which can benefit them financially, too. These are the 'privileges' that I'd like to see for communities in Wales.

Mr Smith has rather confused the issue I referred to when I said that 'the Localism Act puts the decision-making in the hands of the community'.

Unfortunately, the Welsh Government chose not to follow this policy and to establish the LDP process instead. I hope that over time we will be allowed the same privilege as communities in England.

As Mr Smith correctly refers to, the health service in Wales is a devolved matter, with the Welsh Government responsible for its budget and management. The Localism Act does not include the health service, its budget or management for any part of the UK.

I would note, however, that I do have concerns regarding the state of our NHS in Wales. In England, the Coalition Government is protecting NHS spending, and safeguarding its future through modernisation.

But here, Welsh Government is cutting the NHS budget by £440 million. I am concerned that waiting times are higher in Wales, too.

The number of patients waiting to start treatment in Wales rose by 17 per cent over the year (StatsWales, correct as at February 22, 2012).

The number of patients waiting longer than 36

**Falklands legacy 'sad'**  
**THIS** spring marks the 30th anniversary of the Falklands War - in 1982. The battle to recapture the Falkland Islands cost 255 British lives.

It is a conflict that remains in the minds of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who were involved. All remember their comrades who didn't return, but for some the memories have become too painful.

It is a tragic fact that more Falklands' veterans have taken their own lives since the war than died during the conflict itself.

As we remember the bravery of all those who fought in the Falklands, we should also remember that the scars of war can be both physical and mental and often remain long after a conflict is

over. Even the daily pressures of life in our Forces can bring additional stresses and problems for individuals and their families.

Last year alone, the mid Glamorgan branch of the military charity SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) Forces Help assisted 174 members of the Forces community in the area, including veterans of all ages.

We are here for them and their dependants, whether their problems have been caused by the conflict or not.

If you or someone you know have ever served in the Royal Navy, British Army or Royal Air Force, SSAFA Forces Help mid Glamorgan branch is here to provide practical, emotional or financial support.

**Dave Davies,**  
SSAFA Forces Help

weeks for treatment has doubled in a year to 7,699. The figures are much better in England and Scotland.

Furthermore, research shows that cancer patients in England are five times more likely to get cancer drugs than patients in Wales. Some hospital infection rates are now twice as high in Wales as in England.

I urge the Welsh Government to increase investment in the NHS in Wales and not continue to make cuts. It's vital for the NHS across the UK as a whole to modernise - and I certainly do not want to see people in the Vale and across Wales suffer due to lack of investment and reform.

**Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.**

## BUILDING ON GREEN SITES

**I**HAVE been reading with interest letters in The GEM showing strong opposition from residents of the Highlight Park area and local councillors/Assembly members to the development of part of Brynhill golf course for housing.

I believe the number of houses to be around 180. I wonder if the objectors are aware of the Vale of Glamorgan draft Development Plan proposal to build 500 new houses in the same vicinity - just a few metres down the road to the west of Highlight Park?

A further 200 houses are proposed a short distance away, on land south of Port Road, next to Cwm Ciddy.

## India aid could more than fund Remploy

**T**HE news that seven Remploy factories in Wales are to close with the loss of 272 jobs for disabled people is devastating.

The UK Government's comment that the factories are not financially viable, shows that this decision to close the factories being taken only days after the Welfare Bill is passed, which attacks the disabled financially, shows that the UK Government have no intention of giving help to the most vulnerable in society.

This UK Government has also rejected a request to devolve responsibility for Remploy to the Welsh Government. For the UK Government spokesperson to say the disabled

These developments will also be on green field sites, one of which contains important woodlands. They are also outside the recognised boundaries of Barry.

With additional proposals for large-scale housing developments at Rhosee, St Athan and Llantwit Major, not to mention the 2,000 houses at the Waterfront, there will be potentially thousands more cars using the already congested Port Road.

The draft plan is available to view on the council's website and at the Dock Offices in Barry. Any comments/objections to the plan need to be made by April 2.

(Name and address supplied)

## SUPPORT FOR FUNDING BID

**W**E write in response to the letter in The GEM by Ann Moore regarding the Dock Link Road.

We are disappointed that she is seeking to 'do down' the Conservative Vale administration's bid for funding for an important road safety scheme for Barry.

Recently, Coun Jeffrey James announced that a bid for funding to the tune of £600,000 had been supported by SEWTA (South East Wales Transport Alliance). The proposed traffic light junction will resolve a long standing black spot on the Barry Dock Link Road.

Anne Moore is clearly behind the time with

regard to this issue, because she states that 'nothing had been finalised by the current Conservative council'. This is clearly untrue, SEWTA supports the bid. The council is now waiting for the Local Government Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government to sign it off.

We recognise the importance of this project and congratulate the Conservative administration for its commitment to the scheme, which we are sure the Labour Welsh Government cannot reject!

**Gillian Bruce, Lewis Davies and Leighton Rowlands,**  
Conservative candidates for Cadoc ward.

## 'Treat teens with respect'

**T**EENAGERS in gangs can appear intimidating; however, it is important not to judge a book by its cover.

I have a new baby and teenagers are always helping me with my pram on the train and allowing me to go to the front of the queue.

I was in St David's 2 shopping centre and a teenage boy was holding the door for all the shoppers and no-one thanked him except me.

His peers mocked him and he replied: "My

mother brought me up to be a gentleman."

I have never been refused help from a teenager when I've asked.

I believe it is important to treat teenagers with respect and allow them the same rights as all other groups in society.

I have read about solutions to stop teenagers from congregating.

If we did this to radical religious groups, there would be uproar.

**Jane Harding,**  
Barry.

## Clamp down on fouling

**A**FTER dodging three fresh piles on the way to school at Dinas Powys (one of them right by the school crossing patrol where all the children cross the road) I was delighted to hear that the Vale Council plan on contracting out the task of catching dog foulers and ticketing them.

I hope they use the same contractors that used to clamp cars before it was made illegal.

At least this way some people would actually be penalised and stop allowing it to happen.

(Name and address supplied)

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
22 Thur	06.15	9.6	18.33	9.6
23 Fri	06.51	9.7	19.08	9.6
24 Sat	07.22	9.7	19.38	9.5
25 Sun	08.43	9.5	20.58	9.4
26 Mon	09.25	9.3	21.35	9.2
27 Tues	09.58	8.9	22.07	8.8
28 Wed	10.21	8.7	22.36	8.6
29 Thur	11.01	8.2	23.14	8.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



# Man's 'miraculous escape' after youth's dangerous driving

A MOTORIST on the M4 near Sarn Services had a "miraculous escape" when another vehicle swerved into him at high speed, causing him to crash into a field.

The driver responsible for the crash, care home worker Tom Aplin, had been in a group of three cars travelling at between 80 and 100 mph, with two of them tailgating one another in the outside lane as they headed west, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Aplin (20), of Woodland Place, Penarth, a man with no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to a charge of dangerous driving and was sentenced to a community order involving 80 hours unpaid work.

He was also disqualified from driving for two years and ordered to take the extended driving test.

Said Judge Neil Bidder: "Driving such as this can cause horrific accidents and it's a miracle there was no serious harm."

## Report by AJ SICLUNA

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that in September 2010, three vehicles, including one driven by Aplin, were travelling at high speed in the outside lane of the M4. Aplin was in the middle of the group of three.

"They were all behaving in a foolish way, tailgating and driving well over the speed limit. Between junctions 36 and 37, Aplin lost control, swerved into the middle lane and hit a BMW being driven correctly by Colin Starke."

"Mr Starke was in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was very frightening," said Mr Trigg. His car was clipped and went across the motorway, through trees before stopping in a grassy area.

Other motorists stopped and went to his assistance, but discovered he had got out of his car safely.

Aplin also stopped, as did the first driver in the convoy.

The court was told that Aplin appeared to be contrite over what had

happened.

At one point, the proceedings were withdrawn against him and the first driver but, said Mr Trigg, they were later reinstated against Aplin.

Mr Starke estimated the defendant had been doing 90-100 mph. One witness said the three vehicles were "weaving around at 80mph" and another said they had been doing 100mph.

Aplin said he had been driving for one year, eight months and accepted he had been too close to the car in front.

His barrister, Kevin Seal, said: "He works hard and everyone speaks highly of him. He describes what happened as 'a mad 10 minutes'."

"Since the offence, he

has matured and his car has been sold. In the future, he is unlikely to afford insurance."

The judge said: "It was a very bad piece of motorway driving, well in excess of the speed limit."

"What was more significant was that you and your friends were driving competitively, driving far too close and near a point where a filter road from Bridgend joined the motorway."

"Mr Starke crashed, fortunately into a grassed area and you were an inexperienced driver."

The judge pointed out that there had been a substantial delay in the case coming to court and Aplin had been led to believe that the proceedings would be discontinued against him.

## Super campus

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"After years in which the Waterfront project has appeared to be on hold, now is the time to push forward with proposals. However, this will only work if other ideas are also being developed."

"For example, are there other businesses which can be based on the Waterfront and receive a spin-off from having the college there?"

Dr Johnson added: "The opportunities are there for the Waterfront to become a business and employment hub for Barry."

"With the economy slowly recovering, now is the time to invest in Barry's future."

In 15 years time, the Waterfront at Barry could look unrecognisable to what it is today, with more houses (a source of irritation to some people in the town), the Premier Inn Hotel, shops, restaurants, a second road to the Island, and, if a college is built, businesses which take advantage of high end skills.

A number of informal discussions have also taken place in relation to creating a marina which could be the final piece of the jigsaw at the Waterfront. That would require a partnership agreement involving the Welsh Government, Associated British Ports, the Vale Council and the Waterfront Consortium.

## 'Why pool funding bid was withdrawn'

I WOULD like to respond to comments made in an article in The GEM by Coun Gordon Kemp, specifically his comments regarding the proposed reinstatement of the tidal paddling pool on Barry Island.

In the article on March 1, he states that "the costs of the scheme increased so substantially that its promoters concluded that it had become unviable."

This statement is misleading. The increase in costs of the scheme subsequent to the initial submission of plans to the Regeneration Board occurred in a major part, as a direct result of demands from the Vale to put into the project additional costs.

These included the costs of demolishing the

pool and removing the materials at some future unspecified date.

The Vale effectively forced up the apparent cost of the pool. It was not for the reasons of cost that we concluded the scheme was unviable, it was rather the apparent opposition from the Vale to the scheme.

It appeared at every step additional obstacles were being placed in the way of the scheme moving forward.

Instead of working together for the benefit of the community, we concluded that we faced increasing resistance from the Vale, which would ultimately prevent the project from becoming a reality.

It was this which caused us to withdraw the funding bid for what we believed was a project that could have benefited the community. Howard Metcalfe, Chair @Barry Island CIC, Barry.

# Barry ready to honour the company of HMS Cambria



The company of HMS Cambria will be marching through Barry on March 31.

THE streets of Barry will be packed with crowds on March 31 when the ship's company of HMS Cambria will parade through the town to mark the organisation being granted the freedom of the Vale.

The freedom is the highest civic honour that can be bestowed.

The man currently responsible for HMS Cambria, Commander Neil Pugh, said: "It is a matter of great pride that the reservists are able to serve in and for their home county and we are extremely pleased to have been given this honour."

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, who will meet the company on the day, enthused: "This is an

important landmark in the close relationship between the Vale Council and HMS Cambria and is in recognition of the service of past and present reservists."

Civic 'freedom's' date back to the medieval age when groups of armed men were refused entry to a city unless citizens were confident they meant no harm.

Granting permission for a formed body of armed men to enter a city became a mark of trust and confidence summarised as the 'Freedom of entry with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying'."

HMS Cambria was commissioned in 1947 and originally based in Cardiff Docks.

The present buildings at Sully - which are for-

mer service married quarters - were opened on October 15, and initiated a valued connection with the Vale.

Until 1993, Cambria's main operational role was the manning and operating of minesweepers.

From 1984 until it was sold in 1993, Cambria operated a river class minesweeper, HMS Waveney, which was a familiar sight in Barry Docks throughout that period.

In recent years, Royal Naval Reserve's role has changed dramatically with a regular number of reservists from Cambria serving in Iraq, the Gulf, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and the Balkans.

Combined with deployments on board Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, and shore based posts, up to

25 per cent of the ship's company have been consistently mobilised with the Royal Navy since 2003.

Many of the volunteer reservists have been recruited from across the Vale and other parts of south Wales.

The freedom ceremony will be held at King Square at 11am on March 31. The company will then be led in a parade by a Royal Marine band from the King Square through the town centre.

## BEACH CLEAN

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding their next beach clean on Sunday, March 25 (meeting at the Knap at 3pm).

## Wembley-bound

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The spokesman added: "Throughout the day, the boys showed maturity and a great team ethic, playing some outstanding football and creating and scoring some great goals."

The coach of the team, PE teacher Dawn Dobbs, said: "When the team returned to school, there were banners congratulating them on getting to Wembley."

"They knew there was a possibility of getting there, and have been really dedicated."

"The boys are won-

derful team-mates and have been a joy to coach."

They were honoured at a special assembly.

The road to Wembley has been a long journey, starting in Cardiff in October 2011 at the House of Sport - where Romilly won their initial group stage.

November saw the finals day at Futsal in Cardiff, at which Romilly became the champions of south Wales and then earned the right to represent Cardiff City in the southern regional finals.

## Windsor Hotel

Friday 23rd March  
Brendan O'Brien 6pm to 9pm

Sunday 25th March  
The Alliance Live from 5.30pm

Saturday 31st March  
Rockhouse Live from 8.30pm

Sunday, 1st April  
Freeway Live from 5.30pm

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## DETAILS OF SCHEDULE TO BE CIRCULATED SOON

# Billy Banks faces last days of demolition

THE last part of the Billy Banks estate is to be demolished soon, obliterating almost half a century of Penarth history.

The construction of the giant blocks of flats in the 1960s enabled the local authority to house thousands of families over the years, but its monolithic appearance inspired accusations of the area resembling something from the Eastern Bloc.

The developer Crest Nicholson is now confirmed it will demolish the Highview Road and Chichester Road part of the Billy Banks.

That work is due to start in April, subject to the company satisfying planning conditions once the buildings have been stripped.

Tim Beale, Crest Nicholson's managing director, said one of the main aims would be to

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN



Left to right: Local councillors Paul Church and Sophie Williams, with Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council, and Tim Beale, managing director of Crest Nicholson.

carry out the work without inconveniencing local residents.

"We are pleased to confirm that the second phase of demolition is to commence, which will

lead to the removal of the remaining derelict Billy Banks' blocks.

"Every effort will be made to ensure the demolition is undertaken in a manner that minimises disruption to the local community, which will

recreate the opportunity to replace the Billy Banks with a high quality range of new homes as part of the Penarth Heights' development."

The developer will

Nicholson will be starting the demolition of Highview Road and Chichester Road estate, which will remove the last remaining derelict Billy Banks blocks, which are much vandalised and are a terrible eyesore."

The local ward councillor Sophie Williams said she believed the demolition of the final buildings would be a huge relief to many local residents.

"The derelict buildings have been an adventure playground for trouble makers and there have been numerous fires started on the site, which have been a great cause for concern," she said.

Construction work on the first phase of Penarth Heights started in the summer of 2010. So far 29 of the 377 planned houses and apartments have been built.

A total of 20 per cent of the development will be affordable homes.

When the demolition process first began, it inspired a flurry of artistic projects, with photographers, song writers and film makers recording its existence – and demise – for posterity.

## 'Let local people vote on planning issues' – insists a Barry businessman

by TIM CHAPMAN

A local businessman says it is time residents and business owners in local wards were given the chance to vote on planning applications and regeneration proposals.

Ferda Ulug, who owns La Cucina coffee house on Holton Road, said he believed local people were the best people to decide what would work or wouldn't work in a given area.

Mr Ulug said his concern had been sparked by the fact that Holton Road is facing further shop closures and he believed it was essential to get the mix of retail units right in the future.

"Do we want five or six pawn shops, as we have now? They will arrive in bad times, and in good times they will leave."

"For that matter, do people want too many cafes, either?"

"I think local residents in the area, and business owners, should be given the chance to decide whether a particular shop or develop-

ment will enhance an area.

"Why not give people a vote? What we have at the moment is not democracy. Councillors are voted in once every few years, and then everything is decided by them."

"At Park Crescent, more than 4,000 people were opposed to Sainsbury's moving in, but their view didn't count. That can't be right."

The Sainsbury's proposal for a shop on Park Crescent was opposed by local campaigners, rejected by the Vale planning committee, only for a Welsh Government planning inspector to give it the go-ahead.

Mr Ulug said that while local ward councillors knew their areas intimately, planning decisions were often made by county representatives from entirely different areas who didn't know a particular road or shop location as

well as local people.

The topic of planning in Barry and the rest of the Vale has never had a higher profile as people in a number of communities digest the proposals – often for more houses – in the local development plan (LDP).

Mr Ulug said: "We pay extortionate rates to the council to run our businesses and believe we should have more of a say."

Mr Ulug added that developments and planning matters in Barry tended to be one of the most popular strands of conversation among his customers.

He said he had had doubts about whether Thompson Street's facelift represented the best value for money, but if local people had endorsed the work at least it would be have been a truly democratic decision.

"Why are we so shy of giving local people a proper say with a vote? In the UK, we don't get it. In other countries they do," he added.

### FLORAL SOCIETY MEETING

BARRY Floral Society meets on Tuesday, March 27, when Mrs Katherine Kear of Gloucester will give a demonstration on – 'The Little Green Orchard.'

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry at 2.15pm. New members welcomed.



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# Rhws pupils show their versatility at Eisteddfod



RHWS Primary School celebrated Welsh Saint's day in style, with a range of Welsh activities and competitions that culminated in a superb eisteddfod.

Children entered competitions; ranging from art to handwriting,

recitation to music, sports to story-writing.

Foundation phase pupils also carried out Welsh activities with their KS2 buddies, including making Welsh rarebit (reception and year-4); Welsh castles (years 1 and 5); and Welsh collages (years 2 and 6).

The churning of the bard ceremony was held for the winner of the year-6 story writing competition.

The points were then totalled to discover which house team had won.

*Da iawn, ty gwyn!*



## Choir's cheque for Marie Curie



ABOVE:  
John Waud presents the cheque to Georgina Burke.

A CHEQUE for £850 was recently presented to Georgina Burke of Marie Curie Cancer Care, Penarth, by John Waud, deputy chairman of Barry Male Voice Choir.

John explained: "The £850 was raised by the choir's very successful Christmas concert held in partnership with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band."

"The choir is very proud of its community involvement and has recently performed in aid of the Sir Malcolm Sargent children's cancer charity Clic, and the All Saints Church, Barry, organ fund appeal."



## Council pledge to improve the B4265 road

THE Vale Council and the Welsh Government have pledged to straighten part of the B4265 road that features sharp bends on the route between Llantwit Major and Barry.

Coun Jeff James, the Vale's cabinet member for planning and transportation told The GEM: "This project has been a high priority for the Vale Council for many years and this investment is excellent news."

"It is shows great confidence in the new enterprise zone at St Athan and the airport."

A Welsh Government spokesperson added: "The Welsh Government is supporting the Vale Council to undertake highway improvement works to the B4265 at Gileston/Old Mill to improve safety and accessibility."

"These works will be a catalyst to the success of the enterprise zone and will benefit local businesses and attract private sector investment."

This week, temporary traffic lights were introduced in the area to allow for the clearance of a site alongside the road and to enable worker to fell trees.

The lights will be active from 9am to 5pm every day until March 31.

Rhoseo bingo THE management committee at Rhoseo Community hall is holding fundraising bingo afternoon at the hall in Stewart Road, Rhoseo, on Saturday, March 24.

Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. All are welcome

## Church appeal in GEM gets an enthusiastic response

THE appeal in The GEM by Crossway Methodist Church for local people to supply reminiscences and memories for a book to mark its 50th anniversary received an enthusiastic reaction.

A delighted Mr Christopher Pickering, of Crossway Church, revealed: "To date, we have received a tremendous response from past and present members and friends."

"Many people who have been members of organisations who have used the church's facilities have also responded."

"We have some 100 pages of information for publication."

It is not too late to furnish the church with more anecdotes and memories.

Mr Pickering explained: "People can still contribute, but they must be quick because the deadline is fast approaching."

So what is planned by way of a celebration?

"We hope to have displays of photographs, registers, documents and artifacts."

"On Friday, August 31, the church will be open from 2pm to 8pm, and on Saturday, September 1, it will be open from 10am to 4pm."

"It wouldn't be a Methodist church, though, without a steady supply of tea and biscuits – and, of course, a cake stall!"

If people would like to contact Mr Pickering, he is available on 01446 738586.

## Messy church

THE next children's Messy Church at Crossway Methodist Church, Barry, on Monday, April 2, at 3.30pm-5.1 pm, will focus on the most important time in the Christian

Calendar, Holy Week and Easter. For more information, contact the minister, Deacon Samantha Taylor on 406262 or email deaconsam@live.co.uk

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## GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

## Shock at state of Cold Knap

**I**HAVE lived within the boundaries of the Baruc ward, Barry, for some 35 years, firstly on Harbour Road and then on Friars Road, Barry Island.

What a shock I had when I decided to stroll around the lake and Romilly Park, doubling back to Cold Knap.

Living on Barry Island for so many years, I thought that we were really left out in the cold as far as the general upkeep of the area was concerned, something I have tended to protest about for many years.

Sadly, looking at the lake, Cold Knap and Romilly Park has given me more to think about than I would care to imagine.

There were roads like patchwork quilts, pedestrian walkways or foot-paths cracked, and ridden with pot holes, park

benches rotting, with seating slats missing or broken, benches missing from their concrete plinths, and rusty fencing and gates.

Park buildings are patched up with plywood panels, and in a state of rot and decay.

This is all taking place in areas of normally outstanding beauty.

We have one of the best park managers in the Vale, if not in Wales and one of the most diligent heads of visible services we could hope for, yet it would seem that these main authorities have not been informed of this degradation to the very fibre of our tourist industry.

I think we as residents of Baruc Ward should get together soon to make our feelings abundantly clear on this serious matter.

After all, we pay for action and delivery.  
**Barrie V Evans,**  
*Independent candidate, Baruc ward.*

## 'IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT CEMETERY APPROACH'

**W**EEK after week, all I read from the FocusBARRY supporters is Cemetery Approach, Cemetery Approach and yet more Cemetery Approach!

I have to question if this all they have to offer?

Don't they realise there's more to Barry than just one road leading to the Cemetery?

There are so many issues that the residents of Barry are really concerned with – like unemployment, businesses closing down almost every week, our roads crumbling and cuts in police funding.

I have also noticed that week after week, they attack only Labour.

With the exception of one short 18-month spell, when the council was run by a coalition

of Labour, Plaid and Independents, don't they know that for the last 13 years the Vale Council has been run by the Conservatives?

The Tories must be sitting back laughing and thanking FocusBARRY for running their election campaign for them.

It would seem that these 'Independents' have no policies to offer the people of Barry and no vision for the future of our town.

I don't even recall them mentioning in their continuous letters what they would do with Cemetery Approach, let alone how they would solve any of the day to day problems facing the residents of Barry.

(Name and address supplied)

## Dr Hicks provided 'riveting' evening on Barry's history

**I**HAVE to write and comment in The GEM on its coverage of the forthcoming summer event celebrating the arrival of American troops in the Vale of Glamorgan.

One of its promoters, Dr Jonathan Hicks, gave a brilliant and erudite presentation to a large audience in All Saint's Church, Barry, on March 13, which showed the depth of his knowledge of both the First and Second World Wars (or as he

described the latter, the 'second half of the First World War').

He touched on how they affected congregations, and the wider populace, young and old, of Barry. The lecture in aid of funds for the church organ, was riveting – I noticed no-one leaving early – and many stayed on for some time afterwards.

So, congratulations to All Saint's Church, the vicar who chaired the meeting and, above all, Dr Hicks; one of the great evenings in recent Barry history.  
**Christopher Short,**  
*Barry.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**COUNS** Sarah Sharpe and Anthony Ernest, Vale Council members for the Sully and Lavernock ward, are holding an advice surgery at the Old School, South Road, Sully on Saturday, March 24, between 10.30am and 11.30am.

No appointment is necessary and are all welcome to attend.

**Island Farm history talk**  
**RHOOSE** and District History Society is presenting a talk by Mike Clubb on the Island Farm former German POW camp on Friday, March 30, at 7.130pm in Rhooose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16).

## First Responders brief the Health Minister



Pictured are Jane Hutt AM; Lesley Griffiths AM, Health Minister; Bryan Foley, Gerry Adams and Patrick Vennard of the Barry Community First Responders

As well as congratulating the Barry Community First Responders for their £5,000 Awards for All grant on a visit to the Senedd, the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, also introduced the volunteers to the Health Minister, Lesley Griffiths AM, to discuss their work which is carried out in partnership with the Welsh Ambulance Trust.

She reported: "This meeting provided the opportunity for the Barry Community First

Responders, to tell the Health Minister about their volunteer commitment, skills and experience in helping to save lives in the community with their responses to over 3,000 calls referred to them by the Ambulance Service."

## Barry Legion's election of a new chairman



ABOVE:

Mrs Joan Lake and Mr Stan Smith.

**Mr John Hobbs**, chairman of the Barry branch, Royal British Legion, has decided to step down, due to ill health.

At a recent meeting, Mr Stan Smith was elected as the new chairman, having been the vice-chairman for the past four years. Mrs Joan Lake takes over as vice-chairman and also as vice-president.

Mr Smith has been an RBL member for 17 years, eight years as the Barry branch welfare officer, and standard bearer for four years.

## Choir's cheque for Marie Curie



ABOVE: John Waud presents the cheque to Georgina Burke

A CHEQUE for £850 was recently presented by John Waud, deputy chairman of the Barry Male Voice Choir, to Georgina Burke, of Marie Curie Cancer Care, Penarth.

John explained: "The £850 was raised by the choir's very successful Christmas concert held in partnership with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band."

"The choir is very proud of its community involvement and has recently performed in aid of the All Saints Church organ fund appeal and Sir Malcolm Sargent's children's cancer charity Clic."

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (MOUNT PLEASANT, BARRY) (DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE) ORDER 2012

Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and pursuant to Part IV of Schedule 9 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to create a disabled persons parking place at the location specified in the Schedule below.

Full details of the proposals and plan (ref T/12/19/WS, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref.IF680) in writing by 13th April 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

## SCHEDULE

Disabled Persons Parking Place

Mount Pleasant, Barry

On its southern side, from the western boundary wall of Mount Pleasant Church Hall for a distance of 6.6 metres east.

Dated this 22nd day of March 2012

M. Punter  
Head of Visible Services  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

## CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 (MAN PARCIO AR GYFER POBL ANABL) (MOUNT PLEASANT, Y BARRI)

Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adranau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig) ac yn unol â Rhann IV Atodlen 9, a phob pŵer galuogi arall, yn gwneud y Gorchymyn canlynol. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn fydd creu man parcio ar gyfer pobl anabl yn y lle a nodwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

Cewch weld y cynigion a'r cynllun llawn (cyf. T/12/19/WS) yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, ac os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Bennaeath Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF680) erbyn 13 Ebrill 2012 gan egluro eich rhesymau am hynny.

3. Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Haw! i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

## ATODLEN

Man Parcio ar gyfer Pobl Anabl

Mount Pleasant, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr ddeheuol, o wal derfyn orllewinol Neuadd Eglwys Mount Pleasant am 6.6 metr i gyfeiriad y dwyrain.

Dyddiedig 22 Mawrth 2012

M. Punter  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
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## DOG GROOMING SALON OPENS



ABOVE: Karen and Nicky of Bow Wows, the new dog grooming salon, with Beau - another satisfied customer!

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beloved owner, look  
around the salon and  
meet the team...

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## Drop-in centre offers advice to homeless



ABOVE: VIPs pictured at the official opening.

HOMELESSNESS charity 'Llamau' has launched a one-stop-shop in Holton Road, Barry, to offer advice and support to young people aged 16 to 25, in partnership with the Vale Council.

Based on Holton Road, the drop-in centre offers help on housing and assessment, supported lodgings, Vale Tenancy Support Services and Learning 4 Life.

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## THREE CHOIRS IN HARMONY

**FEBRUARY 29 saw All Saints Primary School Choir, Barry Ladies and Barry Male Voice Choirs join together for a wonderful choral evening in aid of the All Saints' Organ Appeal.**

Canon Adrian Berry thanked all those involved in the evening, in particular the Three Choirs, Emma Arscott accompanist, David Fulwood and Gordon Mudford of the organising sub-committee.

Mr Gareth Roberts, Master of Ceremonies, introduced the first performance.

It involved all three choirs on stage singing as one, and this was followed by the Barry Ladies Choir singing 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'No More Winter's Hand' and 'The Rose', all performed under the directorship of Alice Jones.

All Saints Primary School Choir made up of more than 45 pupils on stage performed 'Lay My White Cloak' and 'Hallelujah' from *Shrek*.

Claire Lewis from All Saints Primary School directed the children, standing in for Alison Price, who unfortunately, was taken ill the previous week.

The Barry Male Voice Choir, under Dorothy Connell, were wearing their new royal blue uniforms provided by the widow of Dennis Blake, who was a member of the choir for 60 years.

Their section of the programme included 'Roman War Song', 'Y Ffory', 'Men of Harlech' from the hit film *Zulu*.

All three choirs again took to the stage under the directorship of Claire Lewis to perform 'Cwm Rhondda' assisted by the audience.

After the interval, the ladies were back on stage with a number of items and Barry Male Voice

Choir concluded the evening. On behalf of the fundraising committee, Suzanne Grover and Ann Elliott presented Alice Jones, Dorothy Connell, Claire Lewis, and Emma Arscott with flowers and the Master of Ceremonies Gareth Roberts with a bottle of wine, as a token of their thanks.

A total of £1,736 was raised towards the £70,000 target required to refurbish and repair the organ. AE

## 'Wartime talk was riveting'

**I HAVE to write and commend The GEM on its advance coverage of the forthcoming summer event celebrating the arrival of American troops in the Vale of Glamorgan.**

One of its promoters, Dr Jonathan Hicks, gave a brilliant and erudite presentation to a large audience in All Saint's Church, Barry, on March 13, which showed the depth of his knowledge of both the First and Second World Wars (or as he described the latter, the 'second half of the First World War').

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The lecture in aid of funds for the church organ, was riveting - I noticed no-one leaving early - and many stayed on for some time afterwards.

So, congratulations to All Saint's Church, the vicar who chaired the meeting and, above all, Dr Hicks; for one of the great evenings in recent Barry history. Christopher Short, Barry.

**Family service**  
ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service this Sunday, March 25, at 10am on the theme of Jesus feeding the five thousand.

The worship will be suitable for all ages and refreshments are served after the service. All are welcome.

## What kind of dog will choose you?



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Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School's winning line-up: Front row, left to right, teacher Angela Burd, Sarah Jayne Griffiths, Aimee Delaney, Lissie Wallington, with Dave Ball. In the back row (left to right) are: Roy Noble, Kirsty Williams AM, and Anne Smith.

## Barry Rotarians 'proud' of Youth Speaks teams' success

THE Rotary Club of Barry has welcomed the success of junior and senior teams in the District 1150 final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, hosted by the Rotary Club of Crickhowell on March 5.

The Youth Opportunities Services project gives young people the opportunity to develop interpersonal skills to make public pre-

sentations in a competitive environment.

Eight teams from Rotary District 1150 competed in the junior section [11-13 year olds] and the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, whose topic was *The Olympics and its influence*, were the District 1150 runners up.

Chairperson was Rhiannon Berry, speaker was Morwenna Osmond and the vote of thanks was given by Betsan Jones.

Judges in the junior section were Mrs Anne

Smith MBE, Mr Tom Whyatt MBE and Mr Patrick Meadows.

Chairman of the judges, Mrs Anne Smith said that speaking in public was an important, valuable and necessary life skill. She praised the outstanding standards set by some of the young competitors.

In the senior section [14-17 year olds], nine teams competed and the team from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, who were entering for the first time in the section, were the winners!

Their team was chaired by Aimee Delaney, their speaker was Lissie Wallington and their vote of thanks was given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

The team's chosen topic was; *Play up, play away and play the fool*: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality.

To add to their success, Sarah Jayne Griffiths also won the prize for the best vote of

thanks. In line with national rules, speakers in both the junior and senior sections had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic.

Judges in the senior section were Mrs Anne Smith MBE, Mr Roy Noble OBE and Kirsty Williams AM.

Mrs Anne Smith said contestants were a credit to their schools.

She also paid tribute to everyone who had worked so hard to make this round of the competition so successful.

Speaking to the team members of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School at the end of the competition, president of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, congratulated them all, saying he was immensely proud of their achievements.

The Bryn Hafren team will go on to the Regional Final which will be held in Staffordshire on Saturday March 24.



Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg juniors, runners up – Left to Right: Rhiannon Berry, Morwenna Osmond, Dave Ball and Betsan Jones.



ABOVE: Proud pupils show off the sausages they made.

## Students sample sausages!

YEAR-6 pupils at Romilly Primary School were recently given an amazing opportunity by Vic

Hopkins & Son butchers when they visited their shop to discover what it takes to make Gold

Award sausages.

They prepared the meat and packed the sausages themselves under the careful eye of Mr Hopkins.

They made their own sausages from start to finish and were able to take them home for their tea.

A huge thanks to Vic Hopkins as the children are really enjoying this exciting experience. AW

## PACT meetings

ILLTYD PACT, 7pm today (March 22) at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

BARUC neighbourhood officers will be holding a surgery on April 1 at Amherst Crescent between 5pm and 6pm and on Monday, April 2 at Marine Drive between 6pm and 7pm. Look out for TREV – The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, 2.30pm, April 4 at the residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry.

BUTTRILLS PACT, at 6.30pm on April 5, at The Phillip John Community Room, Barry Library.

PENLLYN coffee and chat meeting, April 4 at the Red Fox Pub, Penlllyn at 11am.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, April 5 at 8pm.

## Vale MP welcomes go-ahead for plans at the Waterfront

ALUN CAIRNS, MP for the Vale, has welcomed news that Barry Waterfront Consortium's £230m plan to regenerate part of Barry has been given full planning approval by the Vale Council.

Mr Cairns said: "It's really good news to hear that the development programme has been approved.

"The investment will help create much needed local employment and support for local businesses from construction work for the new homes, road improvements and local community facilities."

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## Science week in Vale schools

SCIENCE week went off with a bang at Rhws Primary School as pupils of all ages threw themselves into a week of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities.

Run in conjunction with Barry Island, Romilly and Cadoxton Primary Schools, pupils became scientists for the week with a wide range of hands-on activities.

These included visits from doctors, nurses, scientists, storytellers, past teachers and past pupils, allowing the children to experience science in an exciting way and to gain knowledge and understanding on a wide range of topics.

The week culminated with a science fair, in which pupil scientists from each class set up their own stalls, demonstrating the discoveries they had made during the week.

KB



### MAYOR'S COFFEE

MERTHYR Dyfan Church will benefit from a coffee morning held by the Mayor of the Vale at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on March 27 at 10.30am to 12 noon.

## THE OLYMPIC TORCH WILL PASS THROUGH THE VALE

THE route that the Olympic flame will take through the Vale on Saturday, May 26, has been announced, along with some of the names of the torchbearers who will carry it.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "Everyone is urged to line the streets and join in with this once in a lifetime event as the London 2012 Olympic flame will begin its journey through Dinas Powys at 7am."

The torchbearers will make their way along Cardiff Road on the stretch between Eastbrook Station and Dinas Powys Station and the convoy will then move on to Barry.

The torch relay will restart on Cardiff Road in Barry, at the junction with Palmerston Road at 7:16am.

The flame will then be taken along Holton Road and Broad Street, then over to Barry Island for a loop of the resort, before continuing uphill towards Park Crescent, Jenner Road and Colcot Road before finishing its time in Barry on Port Road East at the junction with Pleasant View at approximately 8:47am.

Rolling roadblocks are expected to be in place as the torchbearers make their way through the towns.

Maps of the exact routes through Dinas Powys and Barry can be viewed online at [www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/olympics](http://www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/olympics).

The route can also be traced at [www.london2012.com/olympic-torchrelay](http://www.london2012.com/olympic-torchrelay), along with the details of some of the people who have been selected to carry the flame.

An average of 115 torchbearers a day will run with the flame, each carrying it for 300 metres. Each torchbearer will wear a white and gold uniform which has been designed by adidas.

Once the Olympic flame moves on from the Vale to other parts of south Wales, there will be two free events following the torch relay.

Organised by the Vale Council's leisure and tourism department, there will be a beach sports party at Barry Island between 9am and 2pm, and a Street Olympics morning on King Square between 9am and 12pm.

The London 2012 Olympic torch relay begins in Land's End on Saturday 19 May, and will be carried in the Vale of Glamorgan on day eight of its 70-day journey.

## Anti-domestic abuse campaign launched

The Safer Vale Partnership has launched 'Behind Closed Doors', a campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

The campaign was launched at Llandough Hospital, in partnership with Atal-y-Fro and is aimed at all members of the public regardless of their age,

sex or status. If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or you are worried about someone, you can contact the following:

Safer Vale 01446 450200 or visit the website for [www.safer-vale.co.uk](http://www.safer-vale.co.uk) for further information;

All Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline 08088 0108003;

Atal-y-Fro 01446 744755;

Dyn Project (men) 08088 010321;

Broken Rainbow (LGBTB) 0300 999 5428;

Rights of Women (Free legal advice) 020 7251 6577 or 020 7490 2562 (textphone).



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# First Minister puts the boot into Cardiff Airport

**STAFF at Cardiff Airport must be feeling a little shell-shocked at the moment, as the future of the Rhose airport has been the subject of much discussion recently in the media.**

First there were critical comments over passenger numbers, then

there was a suggestion that a main line railway spur to the airport could help – followed rapidly by headlines saying that such a spur would be a “£15 million white elephant”.

Finally, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, stepped in – but not to offer any comfort.

Speaking in the Senedd chamber, he stuck the boot in by saying that he wouldn't want anyone arriving in Wales

via the airport, because it gave a poor impression of Wales.

The First Minister's remarks have been interpreted in the press as being designed to put pressure on the airport's Spanish owners, Abertis, to either try harder or sell the airport to someone who will.

The proposal for a railway spur off the current Vale of Glamorgan line was put forward by Professor Stuart Cole of the University of Glamorgan, who was quoted as saying that it would give Cardiff an advantage over Bristol Airport, which has no rail link.

Within a few days, a local opposition group, entitled ‘Stop the Spur’ was branding that rail link as a “£15 million white elephant” – also arguing that it would stifle any plans to make the current Vale of Glamorgan line a more frequent service.

The airport itself has recently presented its view of the situation to the Assembly.

In that paper, its business development and commercial director,

## Report by PHILIP IRWIN

Steve Hodgetts, declined to blame road and rail links for falling numbers.

For him, it was all about the routes and operators that the airport could offer.

His statement to the Assembly said: “The infrastructure supporting Cardiff Airport – including the airfield, terminal and access routes – is not currently a critical inhibitor to route development, nor will infrastructure expansion alone lead to favourable route development decisions.”

He continued: “There is a perception that the number of airlines and tour operators, and the services they provide, are entirely within the control of airports; however, this is not the case.”

“Specific examples are the large networks provided by Ryanair and easyJet at Bristol Airport, which offers a significant pull for Welsh consumers, with some 15 per cent of Bristol Airports passengers being Welsh originating or destined for Wales.”

He said that the

majority of airlines did not perceive Cardiff Airport's market as either distinctive or attractive enough to develop route networks at the moment.

In what appeared to be a call for more Assembly support, he said: “Therefore, there is a need to create opportunity through differentiation and distinction, backed by a unity between stakeholders and comprehensive – including Government – support.”

The Stop the Spur group is opposed to the continued inclusion of the railway spur in the Vale Council's Local Development Plan, saying that a spur “...could well be at the expense of the frequency and quality of services available to commuters on the Vale of Glamorgan Line.”

The group says there is little evidence that a direct rail line will help reverse the airport's recent decline.

It argues that the Vale Line and the airport railway spur will compete for line capacity and for financial support, describing The Vale Line, re-opened in 2005, as “a growing success” with passenger journeys to and from Rhose and Llantwit Major, rising from around 300,000 in 2005/06 to 360,000 in 2008/09. The group

argues: “The airport spur will not just compete for line capacity, it will also compete for financial support. The low levels of likely usage of the spur, possibly as low as 100,000 passenger journeys a year, mean that the spur will always require considerable public subsidy.”

“Many more people use the Vale line, and more again would use it if the service frequency increased.”

“There has to be a very real concern that, in the fight for resources, the bread and butter but valuable Vale Line ends up losing out to the politically more appealing but, in reality, less valuable airport railway spur.”

“The success of Cardiff Airport is in the interests of the people of the Vale, some of whom work there and many of whom use its services. Sadly, the airport railway spur, although a politically attractive, headline-grabbing initiative, is unlikely to make much of a difference to the long-term health of Cardiff Airport.”

The group says that people prefer to travel to airports by car. It says that data presented by Cardiff Airport to the Welsh Affairs Committee, showed that ‘ease of access’ to the airport was near the bottom of the list of reasons for

travellers not using Cardiff Airport.

It says that only two per cent of those surveyed described it as the main reason they didn't use Cardiff Airport more often.

Conversations about Cardiff Airport's recent decline often contrast its performance with the rapid rise of Bristol Airport, from a roughly equal start 15 years ago to Bristol having almost five times more passengers last year.

In 1997, Cardiff had 1.2 million passengers, compared to Bristol's 1.6 million.

Since then, a big gap has opened up. By 2005, Cardiff had grown to 1.8 million, but Bristol had surged ahead with 5.2 million.

That gap has continued to grow. In 2011, Cardiff had fallen again to 1.2 million, while Bristol had continued to grow, now up to 5.8 million.

The ‘Stop the Spur’ group points out that

the airport spur will be an expensive white elephant which will compete for money and line capacity with the Vale Line and drain resources from more worthwhile transport priorities, without helping to reverse Cardiff Airport's decline.

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## Legoland winners

THE winners of our recent Legoland competition, to win one of three sets of four tickets, were: Mrs S M Cole, Pyle; Leanne Gunter, Barry; and Mr Pedersen, Cowbridge.

Congratulations to you all and keep reading for more great GEM competitions!

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Friday (March 23) at the Old School Hall, Church Lane, St Athan, CF62 4PL, from 4pm to 5pm. No appointment is necessary.

## Valeways walks

ON Sunday, March 25 at 2pm, 'Up to the A48 Circular', starting at the footbridge in Peterston-super-Ely. Tuesday, March 27 at 1.30pm, 'Lavernock

and Marconi', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car park.

**New Age Concern Club**  
AGE Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan's popular 'Ageing Well' Club is coming to Penarth Leisure Centre every Wednesday from 10.30am-1pm.

Age Concern in inviting those aged 50 and over to a free open day on March 28 at Penarth Leisure Centre from 10.15am - 1pm.

Contact Chris Collins on 07584346002 (Monday to Wednesday) for more information.

## Floral art

LLANTWIT MAJOR Horticultural Society's next meeting is on Wednesday, March 28 in the Llantwit Hall at 7.30pm when Kevin Thomas will talk on 'The Flower Arranger's Garden'. Admission, refresh-

ments and a raffle are free. All are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend.

Contact secretary Sylvia Geary on 01446 792087.

## Thrift shop

ST ATHAN will close for Easter on March 28 at 1.30pm and reopen on April 16 at 10am after the Easter break.

## Support Y Bont

IN association with Support Pen-y-Bont, Spring Clean Saturday is urging residents to 'bring a bag to Y Bont' on Saturday, March 31 (9am-1pm).

Y Bont urgently

needs clothing, accessories, shoes, soft toys, textiles and bric-a-brac. No books, videos or glass items. Profits of £600 per tonne will help to fund our much-needed services.

## Tax help for elderly

THE next TOPs (TaxHelp for Older People) surgery where free professional advice is offered to older people on a low income who have income tax queries and problems, will be held at Old Hall, Cowbridge on April 5.

Home visits can also be arranged for those unable to attend. Telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

## Vale youngsters gearing up for a charity concert



The Stagecoach Performance Troupe at Barry Memorial Theatre.

**THE Stagecoach Performance Troupe**, made up of pupils from throughout the Vale and Bridgend, are currently in rehearsals for a concert in Cardiff's St David's Hall to raise money in aid of Breast Cancer Care Cymru.

Other stars taking part include Shan Cothi, Wynne Evans (tenor and star of the Go Compare ads), James Fox (of Fame Academy and Chess The Musical) and Keith Jack (BBC's Any

Dream Will Do).

The troupe rehearse together each Saturday with choreographer Jaye Lawrence and vocal coach Dave Winterbottom.

The children, aged from 10 to 18, have twice performed at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End, and locally they have performed at the Barry Memorial Theatre, Wales Millennium Centre, and at local schools and events.

If you would like information about Stagecoach Theatre Arts please call 01446 781454 or visit [www.stagecoach.co.uk](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk).

## Memories of wartime Barry

The Wartime Weekend, at the Barry Tourist Railway from June 16-17, will seek to recreate on a far larger scale what life was like in Barry during the wartime years. With the help of a fleet of American trucks from the era and living historians, a part of Barry Docks back in 1944 will be re-created.

Wartime entertainments and music will be provided, and a wartime housewife will be show-

ing everyone how to 'make do and mend'; a theme so important when most of Britain's goods had to be imported by the Merchant Navy through submarine-infested waters.

The 'Snapshots of Barry during the Second World War' exhibition runs until March 27, and both events are free.

You can find out more about this event and Barry's wartime history at the group's website: [www.barryatwar.info](http://www.barryatwar.info).

## Garage Sale

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 23rd-25th March

Fitness equipment, furniture, pre-loved clothes, household items & much more.

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**Open Day & Table Top Sale** catch up & play  
Saturday, 10-12.30pm  
31st March

Entry is free, everyone is welcome - browse stalls and have a some lunch while the children play. For more information on our baby and toddler group or to book a stall at our open day contact [enquiries@catchupandplay.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@catchupandplay.co.uk) or call Sarah on 0789 444 5898

[www.catchupandplay.co.uk](http://www.catchupandplay.co.uk)  
New baby & toddler group in Llantwit Major...  
[www.facebook.com/Catchup.and.Play](http://www.facebook.com/Catchup.and.Play)

## Candidates in Cadoc



CADOC Labour Party has chosen Councillors Anne Moore, Fred Johnson and Neil Moore as the Labour Party candidates on May 3 for the Vale Council in the Cadoc ward in Barry.

A Labour spokesperson said: "They are an experienced Labour team and have represented the Cadoc ward for many years, and look forward to defending their seats and representing the people of Cadoc for another term."

## Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D714.

● £2,000: 755505.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.  
● £10: 2 5 5 3 1 9, 869446, 445051, 181778, 483106, 599978, 668695, 296623, 342076, 224823, 406628, 709965, 299013, 219937, 454943, 671136, 880403, 230316, 642146, 489336.

● £5: 456197, 431719, 911135, 360016, 434929, 899054, 354967, 135763, 335694, 891516, 436827, 378149, 567198, 324376, 879650, 245113, 122489, 721836, 198559, 771506, 153345, 348110, 992583, 315054, 283441, 302285, 352068, 787086, 491290, 303928, 454039, 243251, 306685, 591393, 229940, 311850, 989142, 705606, 221892, 702547, 320668, 569692, 618162, 544279, 309453, 154304, 255834, 725764, 373300, 801143, 889522, 271916, 675178, 705574, 445304, 344669, 781232, 614652, 851706, 681919.

THE GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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## Wedding Fayres Spring 2012

**The Bear Hotel Cowbridge**  
Tel. 01446 774814  
This Sunday 25th March 11.00am - 4.00pm

**Caerphilly Castle**  
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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**  
New House Hotel, Cardiff Sunday 15th April  
Bryn Meadows Hotel, Caerphilly Sunday 22nd April  
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**Easter Saturday April 7th Evening**  
**PHONIKA** (Harmony Band) Free Entry

**Easter Sunday April 8th Evening**  
Free Entry  
**ICE TRAX** (Vocal/Instrumental Duo)

**Plus Easter Sunday Afternoon**  
**DAVE LEE JONES**  
in Bar on the Bay

Plus FREE kids evening entertainment in Bar on the Bay - Fri/Sat/Sun & Mon + Bouncy Castle on Easter Sun/Mon (weather permitting).

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# COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP OUT THE HOMELESS



Pupils with the items they were donating to Llamau to benefit the young homeless people of Wales.

## Spring fair in aid of the Vale Foodbank

A SPRING fair will be held in aid of the Vale Foodbank this Saturday, March 24 from 1.30pm to 4.30pm, in Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Barry.

Stalls include crafts, tombola, bric-a-brac and jumble and there will be a free bouncy castle and craft table for children.

The Vale Foodbank opened in October 2011, to help supply local families with free emergency food parcels.

Foodbank coordinator, Susan Lloyd-Selby said: "The average foodbank supports approximately 800 people in its first year but here in the Vale, we have already supported 780 people in just six months, 300 of whom

were children. People are referred to us for all sorts of reasons – delays in benefit payments, ill health and debt – but we are also supporting families on low incomes who are struggling to make ends meet.

"The Foodbank relies entirely on donations and, thanks to the generosity of local churches, schools, individuals and businesses we have so far received over 8,600kg of donated food.

"We are very grateful for all the incredible support we have received and hope that people will come along to support the spring fair on Saturday. There will be a collection point in the fair for food donations."

For more information about the Vale Foodbank, telephone 07879 562077.

PUPILS at Cardiff and Vale College studying diplomas in public services have made a generous donation to local charity Llamau that will benefit the young homeless people they work with.

The pupils raised money by taking over the college café for a coffee morning for staff and fellow students. They then spent

the money on items that would benefit Llamau's 'Get Set Appeal' – the public providing packs of cleaning equipment, bedding, cooking utensils and other such items.

The students found the experience "very valuable".

Teifion Greet (18) said: "As a class, we've enjoyed the project and feel satisfied that we've been able to help someone in need and provide

them with the basics to set themselves up in life. The project has made me feel more confident about moving out, and makes me appreciate what I usually take for granted at home."

More information on Llamau can be found at [www.llamau.org.uk](http://www.llamau.org.uk).

## Invitation to school's Holy Week musical

PENARTH pupils from St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School recently took the Cross out to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Sully Road as part of their Lenten journey around the Vale.

Chaplain Mrs Price said: "The cross is our Christian symbol of the love of God and at Lent we like to go to the schools and parishes to remind them that we are praying for them and asking them to pray for us."

"We are also taking the opportunity to tell them about a brilliant musical called *Born For This*, written by talented duo Jo Boyce and Mike Stanley from CJM music, which St Richard Gwyn are putting on in Holy Week.

A school spokeswoman said: "Everyone is welcome to the evening performance on April 3 at 7pm and free tickets can be obtained from the school on 01446 729250."



Two of the St Richard Gwyn pupils.

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Saturday March 31st

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*Established for 15 years trading as Onevision the company's office is now dual purpose incorporating Vision Solar Solutions.*



Over 50 PV systems have been installed by Paul and his team in the South Wales Area including Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Ty Croes School, Local Authority and Office Blocks.

Paul already had the skilled and trained labour force for Sky and Aerial installations.

He quickly recognised a gap in the Solar PV market for a local MCS qualified installer that had experience in mechanical, electrical and high level cabling.

Paul installed the PV system on his own home last year and found that the returns are still excellent even after the recent government reduction on the feed in tariff.

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*Paul and some of his fleet preparing to serve customers throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.*



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# SPRING FORWARD

**YOUR CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS WEEKEND**



## The Clocks Go Forward One Hour

*Date of Clock Change?*

*Sunday, March 25, 2012*

## What time do they change?

*Clocks always change at 1:00 GMT (2:00 BST)*



*Spring is in the air and it is a good time to look at your home and lifestyle – but where do you start? The GEM offers a few tips to help you make that big decision.*

**S**PRING is a time when you get that urge to have a good clean out or to repair or renew parts of your home.

One of the biggest parts of spring cleaning is getting rid of clutter that you don't need

Amid the endless piles of laundry, dishes, forgotten bills, and overdue library books, you have a house.

A house you would desperately love to show off with pride.

It makes you depressed even to think about how to get this mess organised. You feel your only hope now lies in the chance that one of your horrified relatives will recommend you for a cable show home makeover.

While you're waiting for that lightning bolt to strike, let's try some simple steps and ideas to help you make your home into a place that allows cleaning and organisation to be easily achievable.

Who knows, you might even find the cordless phone you lost months ago!

Grab a spiral notebook and a pencil. Take a few minutes and mentally survey each room.

In your notebook, jot down the problem areas in the room, putting one problem on a page.

You'll need the rest of the space on that same page for the following steps.

The items on the paper should be parts of the room that really bug you, or that your family finds impossible to keep neat.



Analyse each room in the house in this way, making a list of the areas that need improvement.

Don't forget that you can improve your home and add value by painting and decorating, although it may be necessary for you to pick one room at a time to overhaul.

Perhaps you need a handyman to replace or repair items?

What about a conservatory or some patio doors to view the garden now that spring is here?

Have your grown up children decided to stay at home, as house prices are so expensive?

They may be finding it hard to get on the property ladder so perhaps an

extension would be a good investment.

Do you need garden walls re-cementing or building, or do your fences need repairing or treating with a protector?

Would your garden look good with a patio or a barbecue area ready for the summer ahead?

If you work full time wouldn't it be good to get someone in to spring clean the house. You can then put your feet up when the weekend approaches.

Do you have window panes that are cloudy? Have the seals started to leak?

There are a number of good local tradesmen who can help you get your house in order. Check them out, and make a start today!

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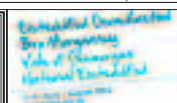
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**The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan**  
**Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012**



# Caryl brings new show to Eisteddfod

**C**aryl Parry Jones is one of Wales' best known faces, and this year, she stars in a brand new show, developed exclusively for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

Following the success of her one-woman show, 'Mae Caryl Parry Jones yn fyw' at the Wrexham and District Eisteddfod's Maes C last year, and her recent S4C show 'Noson yng nghwmni Caryl', the talented performer, who lives in the Vale of Glamorgan, presents an evening of music and comedy.

Some of her most popular characters – old and new – also appearing as part of a fun filled evening at the Pavilion on Thursday, August 9 at 8pm, and Caryl said: "I hope we'll have fun on the night, with plenty of singing and plenty of laughter. So I hope we'll all enjoy our-

selves. I'll be singing some old favourites on the night – with some new arrangements – and there'll be a few new songs and a few songs I've written for other people."

Caryl is gearing up for a busy period up to and during the Eisteddfod, as she's not only busy professionally, but she's also a key part of the team of volunteers preparing for the Eisteddfod, fundraising and promoting the festival across the region.

"Our committee includes representatives from some of the Vale's smallest villages," she says, speaking about the work over the past two years. "Most places don't even have a shop, so reaching a high financial target has been a challenge, but we've worked hard to get there. You have to be creative to reach your target, and this has worked well for

us locally.

"We organised an 'Ibiza Ibiza' night back in July, and this was extremely popular. Everyone enjoyed seeing the film again and it was a lot of fun to share some of the stories about making the film, and to re-live the period, really. Lots of fun. Then, we've organised events like the Heart and Art auction on Santes Dwywnen evening, which was also a great success – totally different to Ibiza Ibiza! And some of Wales' leading artists and famous people had given us their work to sell in an unbelievably 'upmarket' tombola!

"So there's a lot of excitement about the Eisteddfod's visit, but there's also a lot of hard work still to do to make sure the week is a success."

Details of all local activities are available on the Eisteddfod website, and this is also the place to go to buy tickets for Caryl's concert –

www.eisteddfod.org.uk; or ring the ticketline on 0845 4090800. Please go online for more information about the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

Welsh phrase of the week / Ymadrodd yr wythnos.

Cymru am byth! (Come-ree amh bieth!) which means Wales forever! Caryl Parry Jones yw un o wynebau mwyaf cyfarwydd y byd adloniant yng Nghymru, a bydd cyfle i fwynhau'i doniau mewn sioe newydd sbon ar lwyfan Pafiliwn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Yn dilyn llwyddiant ei sioe 'Mae Caryl Parry Jones yn fyw' ym Maes C yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Wrecsam a'r Fro y llynedd, a'i rhaglen deledu ddiweddar ar S4C, 'Noson yng nghwmni

Caryl', bydd y berfformwraig amryddawn sy'n byw ym Mro Morgannwg yn cyflwyno noson o o gomedïa a chanu mewn sioe sydd wedi'i chreu'n arbennig ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod eleni.

Bydd rhai o'i chymeriadau mwyaf poblogaidd, yn rai hen a newydd, yn ymddangos yn ystod y noson hwyllog hon a gynhelir yn y Pafiliwn nos Iau 9 Awst am 20.00, ac meddai Caryl wrth sôn am beth fydd yn ein haros yn yr Eisteddfod, "Y bwriad yw cael hwy! ar y noson, efo digon o ganu a digon o chwertin. Gobeithio wedyn y byddwn ni i gyd yn mwynhau. Mi fyddai i'n canu nifer o'r hen ffeffrynau ar y noson – rhai ohonyn nhw ar eu newydd wedd – ac fe fydd 'na ambell i gân newydd hefyd, ac ambell beth dwi wedi'u cyfansoddi ar gyfer pobl eraill."

Mae Caryl hefyd wedi bod wrthi'n codi arian a hyrwyddo ymweliad yr Eisteddfod â'r Fro. "Mae ein pwyllgor bach ni'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o ben-trefi bach bach bach y Fro," meddai wrth sôn am y gwaith dros y ddwy flynedd ddiweddar. "Does na ddim hyd yn oed siop yn y mwyafrif o'r pentrefi, felly mae cyrraedd targed uchel wedi bod yn her, ond rydan ni wedi gweithio, a chydweithio'n galed er mwyn gwneud. Mae'n amlwg bod rhaid bod yn greadigol er mwyn cyrraedd y nod, ac mae hynny wedi talu'i ffordd i ni'n lleol."

Trefnwyd noson Ibiza Ibiza nol ym mis Gorffennaf, ac roedd honno'n noson boblogaidd tu hwnt. Roedd yn gyfle i fwynhau'r ffilm unwaith eto ac i glywed rhai o'r straeon am y cyfnod pan oeddant ni'n ei ffilmio, ac i ail-fyw'r cyfnod hwnnw mewn gwirionedd. Lot o hwy! Yna, roedd noson fel yr arwerthiant



ABOVE: Caryl Parry Jones.

'Caru Celf' ar noson Santes Dwywnen hefyd yn noson arbennig o dda – hollol wahanol i Ibiza Ibiza! Ac mi oedd rhai o arlunwyr ac enwogion mwyaf Cymru wedi rhoi'u gwaith i ni ei werthu mewn tombola ofnadwy o 'upmarket'!

"Felly mae 'na edrych ymlaen am yr Eisteddfod, ond mae 'na hefyd lot fawr o waith caled wedi'i wneud ac yn parhau i gael ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau y bydd yr wythnos yn llwyddiant."

Mae manylion gweithgareddau lleol i gyd i'w gweld ar wefan yr Eisteddfod, a dyma hefyd yw'r lle i fynd i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer Noson yng nghwmni Caryl – www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu gellir ffônio'r linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800. Ewch i'r wefan am ragor o wybodaeth am Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg.

SIONED EDWARDS

## Y Bont Faen pupils are going green!

**THE Eco Council of Y Bont Faen Primary School are busy planning this term's projects, from an old fashioned jumble sale to a greenhouse made out of lemonade bottles!**

For the last term, they have been trying to come up with ways to go greener so they can show off their brand new green eco flag, but that is the catch, they can't wave a green flag without any reason!

Currently they have been trying to collect lemonade bottles for their latest venture, a greenhouse, made out of those

bottles!

Other plans are to make money by doing a jumble sale in May. 'Bags to school' was yet again another success raising a staggering £384 on average. This is a recycling initiative to reuse old clothes and soft toys!

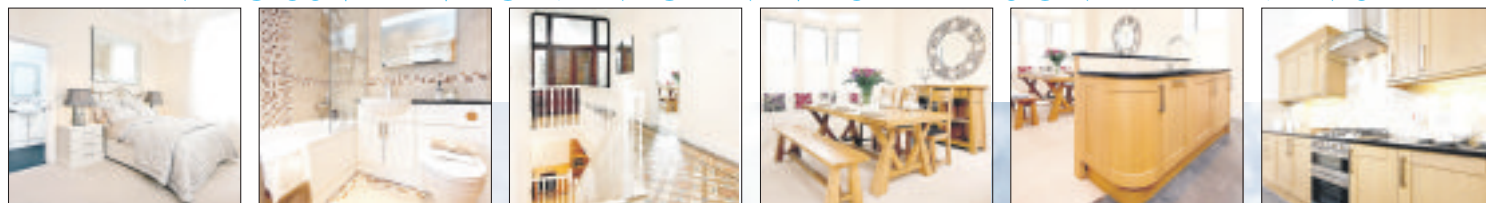
The Eco council received a silver award for their work, a first of any councils in Y Bont Faen this year.

When the weather clears up, the council will start to clear out the conservation area at the bottom of the field with a tractor so we can have a pond in the middle.

**Report by Arthur Jones and Tom Hill of the Y Bont Faen Eco Council.**

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# US troops: 'Hershey bars and impeccable manners'

**DR Jonathan Hicks tells the story of another local family's memories of the American troops in Barry.**

Mavis Austin was brought up in Porthkerry House in Porthkerry Park, her parents working for Lord and Lady Romilly. The family later moved to Holton Road.

About a year before the war started, a German naval ship docked in Barry on a goodwill mission.

Mavis was introduced to some young handpicked officers, one of whom gave her a plaque with an enamel swastika emblazoned on it. (She destroyed this when war broke out).

Mavis said to the German sailor: "We will be at war with you within the year." Her comment was not well

received, but within the year we were indeed at war with Germany.

Mavis was married to Wyndham Stanley Williams, who served as a sapper with the 229th Field Company of the Royal Engineers. Aged 24, he was killed on December 5, 1943 in Tunisia, and lies buried in Massicault War Cemetery, 30 kilometres south-west of Tunis.

After a period of mourning, Mavis decided the only way to survive the sadness that the war brought was to adopt a 'live for today' attitude.

She witnessed dog-fights over the Bristol Channel, once seeing a Spitfire shoot down a German Messerschmitt, and she collected a piece of shrapnel, after bombs fell nearby during an air raid.

Her father served as a policeman in Barry during the war and the



**Mavis Austin**

family met lots of different nationalities in Barry at the time: Poles and Danes for example. She saw lots of airmen too, some of whom had been terribly injured, and recalled the railings from parks and gardens being taken away to make aircraft and weapons.

She remembered American troops being invited into the family home to play cards. One of the soldiers was a native American who



**Captain Ed**

was treated well by the other GIs, something the family had not expected, given the colour bar in force in America at that time.

They brought their hosts Hershey Bars, a welcome change from strict wartime rationing!

Mavis once heard a commotion in the street outside and opened the front door to find an American sprawled on the front step. Looking up she saw US soldiers filling Holton Road, perhaps recently arrived in the town and waiting to be dispersed to their camps and billets.

Known to the American troops as 'Red' on account of the colour of her hair, Mavis had an American friend known as 'Captain Ed'.

She said the uniforms of the US officers were made out of a better fabric than the British uniforms.

Mavis met US soldiers from the Carolinas and she was impressed by their manners when she used to go dancing in 'Bindles', the famous dance hall at the Knap in Barry.

One evening Mavis rowed with her American boyfriend and, as the blackout was in force at the time, she bumped into an officer in the Merchant Navy who offered to escort

her home. His ship was docked in Barry for sometime during the war. They were later married.

Her husband was stationed for a time in Scapa Flow and he used to send eggs home. She said they tasted of fish because they fed the chickens on fish meal.

Mavis often recalled that in a strange way she enjoyed the war. She said there was a lot of sorrow and sadness, and it upset her when she saw the injured.

It also took her time to come to terms with the loss of Wyndham and she was a widow with a young baby to bring up.

But she stated that you had to get on with it because you never knew what tomorrow would bring; it was a time of camaraderie, of everyone pulling together to fight a common enemy. There was also fun, particularly when the Americans came to Barry!

I am grateful to Ann Eynon for allowing me to use her mother's memories of that traumatic period in our history.

The 'Barry at War' local history group will

commemorate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the American troops in the area in 1942 by staging a 'Wartime Weekend' event on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on June 16-17.

The GEM is delighted to support this event and readers can look forward to many articles and features on the presence of the American troops in the Vale of Glamorgan in the period leading up to the living history weekend.

## AWARD FOR NURSERIES



**ST AUBIN nurseries have been recognised for their outstanding commitment to education when Gareth Lynn, Director of KTS Owens Thomas, presented an award to Sarah Hughes, area manager (on left), and Sue Evans, director.**

The award recognises the company's commitment to providing quality work experience placements over 15 years, including the opportunity for young people to work through the medium of Welsh.

### NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

## Help from power station gives the bees a boost...

**SPRING is beginning to put in an appearance; celandines (flowers) are appearing in greater numbers and the days are definitely lengthening.**

As a consequence, the bees are becoming much more active and bringing in pollen from the celandines and that is always a good sign.

However, I have had two colonies die out, despite them having an abundance of stores.

It is not disease that has caused it, nor an over-population of varroa mites.

The most likely cause is the mild conditions that prevailed in January.

This led to the bees being very active – then a sudden cold snap in February and the bees shut down again and formed a cluster.

They would not move to access the stores within the hive.

Yet the winter of 2010 saw temperatures

of -19 centigrade and all of my hives survived intact – very perplexing!

In the autumn of 2011, nine colonies were settled for the coming winter, then come spring of 2012 I am down to six.

Two died out, and one was lost to an invasion of mice, because I did not put a mouse guard across the entrance of the hive.

This gadget has a series of holes large enough for the bees to pass through, but too small for the mice to get in.

This unforgivable lapse by me will be conveyed to our beginners' classes this coming season, and (hopefully) my loss will be their gain.

On a lighter and brighter note, Barbara Chick and I are going to establish an apiary on land belonging to the power station at Aberthaw.

Those responsible for allowing this are to be applauded.

A biodiversity programme is already in operation at this power

station and the inclusion of honeybees will certainly add to it.

Apart from allowing this access, the site chosen has been provided with a hard stand, a secure storage unit, excellent stands for the beehives, made in-house – and an offer of further assistance should we need it as the year progresses.

*A world without the honeybee is not to be desired, so any help in the provision of habitat is good news and will give a species that is struggling to survive, a much-needed boost.*

**HAROLD WILLIAMS**

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## Local beaches' awards praised

**THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has welcomed news that two beaches in the Vale and Ogmere received awards for cleanliness from Keep Wales Tidy.**

Southerndown and Jackson's Bay won the Seaside Award for attaining the European Union standard of bathing water quality and beach management.

Ogmere achieved the Green Coast Award which gives recognition to beaches that have demonstrated the highest for its environmental standards, and top quality bathing water.

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## BARRY MEN'S FORUM NEWS

**WHEN he was 13, Michael Ball asked his local parish priest for access to the parish records. His desire to delve into his family's history had started young and it was to remain with him all his life.**

When speaking to us last week Michael revealed that he quickly discovered that he was one of the numerous Dennis family that then, as now, abounded in Derbyshire in the nineteenth century.

Michael was fascinated to discover that a jobs 'grapevine' existed among workers in early Victorian society and the newly established industries of

south Wales needed workers from England to man the mines and factories.

Our speaker's great, great grandfather George was one of these, but Michael is still unsure how poor workers travelled to far away new jobs before railways made the process easier.

Michael described the appalling conditions existing for the manual workers in south Wales at that time. He informed the forum that the only opportunity in the 1830s for miners to spend any time with their families in the fresh air and sunlight was for them to start their shift underground at midnight on a Friday night so they could spend the Saturday afternoon with

their wives and children.

It was the era when poorly built 'two up and two down' houses were considered an improvement for the workers and their families compared with what had existed before.

Michael's ancestor George had five children and became a Methodist. A report published in 1840 stated that in one home 'reported on' there were 24 people with 13 lodgers!

Obviously there would not have been enough beds and bed warming systems were prevalent to cater for those on night and other shifts.

Indigenous Welshmen fought against the incoming workers from Staffordshire and Derbyshire until both these factions united against the

Irish immigrants.

The era that migrants such as our speaker's ancestors spent in south Wales left an impression which exists to this day.

At our next meeting on March 18, Ian Birchenough, one of our members, will speak on 'Policing in London'.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members welcome. For further details contact 02920 594881.

Mac Tanner

# Learning about a Derbyshire mining family in south Wales

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**I**N recent years, there has been a quantum leap in the popularity of the 'cafe culture' in the Vale.

There are a number of reasons for this. In Barry, for example, pedestrianisation of King Square, and wider pavements on Holton Road and Thompson Street, have encouraged businesses to place tables

and chairs outdoors so people can enjoy the pleasant weather along with a drink and a snack.

What then appeals to visitors is the relaxed, Continental atmosphere it brings to an area?

Cafes are now so much more than a hearty breakfast and a cup of tea. They create an amazing variety of meals throughout the day, provide takeaway menus and some even run delivery services.

The decors are often bright and slick - or themed - and the menus provide a huge choice to cater for any time of the day.

Coffee shops and cafes are often the most convenient place to meet up with friends, hold business meetings, and to relax for a welcome pit stop during a busy shopping day.

Wherever you are in the Vale there is a friendly, family owned cafe at your disposal.

Glenys Watson runs Coffee Time on the main road in Rhoose and has a varied clientele.

**(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 19)**

**STRICTLY ROOTS**  
Authentic Caribbean Cuisine

**248 Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4HW**  
Order Hotline: 07979 153645 strictlyroots100@gmail.com

**Breakfast from £1.50 Served 9.00am - 11.30am**  
Ackee and Salt Fish, Liver and Onions, Cormmeal, Porridge, Peanut Porridge, Fried Dumplings, Boiled Dumplings, Green Banana, Baked beans, Jerk Sausage, Callaloo, Eggs.

**Main Meals from £3.50 Served 12 noon - 11.00pm**  
Ox Tail, Brown Stew Chicken, Brown Stew Beef, Brown Stew Fish, Curry Mutton, Curry Goat, Steam Fish, Ackee and Salt Fish, Jerk Chicken, Jerk Burgers, Jerk Chicken Wings, Fish Fritters.

All served with a selection of White Rice or Rice n Peas  
Hard Food Yam, Green Banana, Plantain, Callaloo  
Choose from a selection of Steamed Vegetables or Salad  
Selection of Tropical Caribbean drinks including "Ting"

**Food Hygiene Rating 5**

Eat in or Take Away

## JOHN'S CAFE & ice creams

**Open for Breakfasts**  
from 9am to 12noon.

Full English, Mini, Mega  
Vegetarian plus lots more.

**Full selection of:**  
Sandwiches, Toasties & Paninis,  
Jacket Potatoes, Salads, Pies,  
Sausages, Burgers, Roast  
Dinners every day including  
Sundays plus Daily Specials.

**Children's Menu Available**

Open Fri, Sat & Sun  
9am-5.30pm (Weather permitting)



**Amazing Ice Cream  
Desserts**

& range of delicious cakes  
including gluten free.

**12 Esplanade Buildings, Friars Road, Barry Island CF62 5TJ  
Tel: 01446 737290**

**Forest Café**  
Porthkerry Country Park, CF62 6NX.  
01446 739209

**"Porthkerry Country Park"**  
with attractions such as:  
Pitch N Putt Golf, New Outdoor Play Area,  
Pebble Beach, Nature Trails,  
Special Events and Much More!!  
The Forest Café is open daily, serving:  
**Breakfast from 9am**  
**Sandwiches and Baguettes**  
**Paninis • Jacket Potatoes**  
**Light Bites • Lunches**  
**Afternoon Teas • Ice Cream**  
and much much more!!



# VALE AM'S MESSAGE: 'VIGILANCE IS WAY TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS'



ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with other women AMs in the Senedd

AS Minister for Finance and Equalities in the Welsh Government, Vale AM, Jane Hutt, took part in a number of events to mark International Women's Day.

She told the Senedd: "My message for International Women's Day is that we need to be more vigilant and determined than ever, in our promotion and protection of women's rights."

## PUBLIC FORCED TO PAY TWICE?

SO our council reckon they give us good value for money – funny statement that!

They own The Barry Island Rail Station outright and have leased it out on a 20-year deal with Cambrian Transport and then they have to pay Cambrian a hire fee to use their own building for a traders' meeting.

The council has a number of debating chambers at the Civic Offices, also the Dock Offices, in which to hold any type of meeting – but spend amounts of taxpayers' money on the hire of publicly-owned facilities.

I understand the same is true of the Waterfront Festival: the council-owned land is also leased to Cambrian Transport then hired back for the festival at our expense.

All this takes place when they cannot afford to open toilet facilities on Romilly Park and other sites throughout the Vale. Romilly Park public toilets have been closed for a very long time. Is this value for money?

The state of Romilly Park and The Lakeside at the Knap is typical of the short-sighted view the council really has on tourism in The Vale.

Just one example is the condition of the park benches at these prestigious venues with broken, rotten or missing seat slats. Just pop along and look at the mess for yourselves.

Welcome to the real world!

Barrie V Evans

(Independent Candidate, Baruc Ward)

# Café Culture

## A VERY POPULAR CHOICE, WITH LOTS TO OFFER!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)  
She said "We've been here for year now and have a broad range of customers."

"Because Rhooose school is nearby, we get mothers popping in after they've dropped the children off. We also get them in after they've picked them up."

"The fact that we're in a tourist area helps and we get a lot of walkers and bikers who are passing through."

The great thing for Rhooose is that Glenys brought to life a shop unit that had been empty for a couple of years; but not only does she run the coffee shop side of the business, she also prepares buffets, caters for parties, and provides food for family or business occasions.

Just a few miles down the road, on the outskirts of Barry, Forest Lodge, which nestles in picturesque Porthkerry Park, is about to reach a successful landmark.

The owner, Pat Collins, explained: "We opened last Easter, so we're about

to celebrate our first anniversary.

"We completely refurbished the cafe and added a 100-square metre decking area. It created a raised platform, with somewhere to sit, and visitors had great views around the park."

"People just enjoy sitting there and watching the world go by."

The council has also upgraded the nearby play area, which means it is the ideal spot for mum and dad, and the children to relax for the day.

Pat said the changes had encouraged an increase in visitors, adding: "We open up, come rain or shine."

For a friendly welcome, people in Barry know that La Cucina Coffee House in Holton Road is something special.

La Cucina is a cafe and eatery that provides an authentic Mediterranean atmosphere and stylish meeting place.

Ferda, the owner, said: "We have been here for five years and welcome a wide range of customers –

locals, shoppers, office workers and people visiting Barry on their way down to the beach."

While some sectors of the economy have claimed they have been forced to increase prices because of rising costs, local coffee shops and cafes have struggled make themselves as competitive as possible.

Ferda emphasised: "We provide a prompt, friendly service and have maintained very reasonable prices."

Denise's Cafe, located on Woodham Road for 16 years, is rated as 5 star – not just by the customers, but also by the Vale's food and hygiene department.

The owner Denise Taylor provides a thriving port of call for the motor trade fraternity.

Denise explained: "We're very friendly and there is always a lot of banter. The guys come in from

the local businesses, but we also get the customers coming in – maybe those having an MoT – and lorry drivers whose vehicles need a check over."

But that is only part of the story: Denise also has a catering van zooming round Barry and Sully, delivering hot and cold meals for minimum orders of £10.

At Upper Holton Road, there's a new 'cave on the block' – Strictly Roots has taken over the former Full Monty premises, and chefs Miss Pearl and Sylvester Forbes are catering to a wide clientele of local people and visitors to Barry.

Tourists to Barry Island are drawn to John's Cafe, which was established in 1928, and can claim to be one of Wales' oldest cafes.

Its bright, welcoming interior draws locals and day-trip-

pers alike, and over the summer months it will heave with custom.

The Vale is an attractive place to live and a tourist haven.

Part of its appeal is the wide variety of cafes and coffee shops that provide such an excellent service in our towns and rural areas.

## The Coffee Shop

StyleGardens

OPEN EVERY DAY  
Coffee Shop Opening Hours:  
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 11am-4pm

Full English Breakfast 'til 1pm

Selection of Coffees:  
Latte, Cappuccino, Mocha,  
Teas including Herbal

Baguettes, Paninis, Sandwiches,  
Jacket Potatoes, Soup.

Choice of delicious fillings & salads.

Daily specials available

Join us for Afternoon Tea:  
Cakes, Scones, Toasted Tea Cake,  
Chelsea Buns and our  
lovely Custard Slices -  
Enjoy a Cream Tea on the terrace.

02920 590913



ABOVE: At your service; Miss Pearl and Sylvester Forbes of Strictly Roots.



ABOVE: Time to relax at Denise's Cafe, Woodham Road, Barry.



ABOVE: Coffee Zone at The Business Centre, Cardiff Road, Barry.



ABOVE: It's 'Coffee Time' – at Rhooose.

**the coffeezone**

Good food  
Good coffee  
GREAT  
VALUE

Open to the Public

The perfect pit-stop for hot and cold snacks, meals and drinks throughout the day

The Coffee Zone of The Business Centre  
Sully View, Cardiff Road, Barry

Tel: 01446 704428

Monday - Friday  
8.30am till 3.30pm

**La Cucina Cafe**

51 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

Ferda and his team welcome you!

Open for Breakfasts from 9am

Freshly prepared paninis, baguettes. Homemade lasagne & bolognese etc.

Choice of La Cucina salads.

Handmade coffees:  
Mochiato, Cappuccino, Latte and the famous  
La Cucina Hot Chocolate with Marshmallows and Cream.

Delicious cake selection.

Ideal for ladies who lunch, busy shoppers, business meetings or just a chat with friends.

OPEN: 9AM - 5.00 PM  
MONDAY - SATURDAY

We will be open Sundays after Easter

Tel. 01446 722024

**Denise's Cafe**

**Food 2 You**

Mobile Service with deliveries daily to you workplace throughout

**BARRY & SULLY**

Please call to pre-order or for a direct delivery service

Tel: 07812 538 462

ALL HOMEMADE  
HOT & COLD FOOD

Served Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm  
Sat 9am - 3pm

UNIT 12, WOODHAM RD, BARRY DOCK, CF63 4LE



Tuesday 27 &amp; Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 March

# Cowbridge Fashion Walkabout

## Cowbridge shops bring high fashion to the Vale

When it comes to fashion, Cowbridge has spent more than 30 years building its reputation for smart, chic clothing for women of all ages.

Retailers who have been prepared to travel and meet promising designers have backed their judgement and brought new fashion ideas back, and it is fair to say that a number of really big names were talent spotted years ago, and made their first Welsh appearance in Cowbridge.

Now, the designer labels are too numerous to mention, and it was only a matter of time before the town acknowledged its growing reputation by launching its own fashion week. The week has been supported by retailers all around the town, and one event which illustrates that commitment is on March 27 at the Arboreal restaurant in Eastgate, where three prominent retailers will be putting on a charity catwalk show in aid of Ty Hapus, the Barry-based charity that is the chosen beneficiary of fashion week. TV presenter Sara Elgan will be comping, as models show off some of the fashions available from Pebble, E91, and L'Armoire.



L

### Karma Beauty - Save 10%

Keep on trend this spring at Karma Beauty with a gelish everlasting manicure, this revolutionary manicure won't chip or lose shine for up to three weeks whilst still protecting your nails. We are offering free pedicures with the gelish manicure for only £28. Exclusive to Karma Beauty the skin care make up range, Jane Iredale. The make-up combines minerals and essential oils to protect the skin, making your skin appear flawless. Book a complimentary make-over with any treatment this spring/summer at Karma!

Treat your self with the Glow package, a manicure, pedicure, spray tan and weekend lashes for just £40.

Call 01446 771649 - we're just above Curves, 4 Eagle Lane, CF71 7AL. [www.karmabeauty.webs.com](http://www.karmabeauty.webs.com)

This article cutting entitles you to 10% off treatments booked in the salon with a complimentary makeover. (See item L).

### Liquorice Laces...

Liquorice Laces kids shoes in Penny Lane continues to go from strength to strength.

Now in its second year of trading, the catwalk trend for gorgeous colour is certainly reflected in a fantastic range of shoes, sandals and accessories.

New brands have joined established favourites. After lots of customer requests, the iconic and cool Camper range for kids is available this Spring. This gorgeous range uses the most amazingly soft and supple leather uppers for precious growing feet and Salt-water sandals are back!

Frugi organic, reversible fleeces from Cornwall are new in-store to join the ever-favourite Hatley co-ordinating coats and wellies.

Liquorice Laces, 4 Penny Lane, Cowbridge. Tel: 01446 775289. [www.liquoricelaces.co.uk](http://www.liquoricelaces.co.uk)

(See image R).

### PH71...

Paula and Hywel Jones opened their hair salon 7 years ago and strive to ensure a friendly professional service at all times, resulting in a very local customer base.

The salon stocks various products but endorses the Moroccanil Luxury hair care range. Their beauty treatments now include eyebrow threading.

Experienced stylists and beauticians endeavour to give each customer the 'star' treatment, ensuring that customer care is our priority.

Enjoy a free Moroccanil conditioning treatment in exchange for the image cutting. Why not collect 'hair miles' with their new loyalty scheme?

The PH71 Haircrew hope to see you soon. "Come fly with us" at 71 Eastgate, CF71 7AA. Tel: 01446 772539. [www.ph71haircrew.co.uk](http://www.ph71haircrew.co.uk) (See image O - cut out for offer).



R



O



F

## SCALLYWAGS of Cowbridge



Designer Clothes and Shoes for Boys and Girls from birth to 14 years

01446 772104 2 Willow Walk, COWBRIDGE (Situating near Town Hall car park bridge)

Local hairdressing salons Fich and Ramous and Vadatelier are creating the models' hairstyles.

The event is already sold out, with the £15 tickets (which include prosecco and flatbread canapes) snapped up quickly.

Samantha Morgan, the joint owner of Arboreal, told The GEM: "We only opened in October last year, so this is our first fashion week."

"I've always been aware that Cowbridge is a great place to shop for clothes, and it's getting better all the time!"

The fashion week really kicks in on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and the Thursday features late night shopping between 5pm and 7.30pm, with the annual 'champagne trail'.

For the champagne trail, different shops will be putting on something distinctive, which could include music, canapes or champagne!

At 7.30pm. Cowbridge retailers will be showing some of designer gear at a catwalk show in a marquee in the Bear Hotel. Tickets are still available for this event.

Once again, the hairstyles will be provided by Fich and Ramous and Vadatelier.

Claire Collins of Fich and Ramous told The GEM that Cowbridge's reputation as a fashion centre meant that hairdressers needed to make sure that they were at the forefront of each season's fashions.

She said: "We are finding that dip and dye styling is definitely a big trend this year."

The main event on Friday is a lunch and fashion show in the Bear Hotel, which promises a high-quality catwalk experience.

Later in the day, students at Cowbridge Comprehensive School are planning a fashion 'flash mob' on the High Street, as part of two events they have organised - one at the Duke of Wellington and one at the Bear Hotel.

They are holding a 'pop up' fashion event - upcycling and 'swishing' pre-loved clothes. Outfits will be spontaneously put together, and shown on the catwalk and on the High Street.

It all kicks off at 4pm in the Duke of Wellington, featuring girls from years-7 and 8 in the swishing event. Pupils are asking fellow students to bring along up to five items of good quality unwanted clothing for swapping.

These outfits will be paraded on the High Street at around 5.45pm outside Bar 44.

At 6pm, the seniors will also be sorting outfits for an impromptu fashion show, again modelled by boys and girls from the school, at around 7.30pm.

### Arthur John

This family-run business has over a century of service by four generations to Cowbridge and the surrounding community.

The company branched into specialist clothing 26 years ago, stocking high-end brand leaders Barbour, Hunter and Joules weather-proof clothing.

With unisex ranges to suit all ages, they carry an extensive collection of quilted and wax jackets and gilets, plus polo and tee-shirts, seasonal cotton sweaters, Aigle and Hunter wellingtons and proofing treatments.

Not forgetting, a chic and colourful range of headwear and bags to accessorise!

Call 01446 772229, 43 High Street. [www.arthurjohn.co.uk](http://www.arthurjohn.co.uk) (See images F & G)



G

### Influential friends at Dogs Trust - JB's the word!

Dogs Trust, Cowbridge are really excited to announce that at 9.30am on Saturday 31st March they will be launching the sale of clothing and personal items of singer, actor, author and all round entertainer, John Barrowman. As many of you will know, John is a huge supporter of Dogs Trust and kindly opened their charity boutique in September last year. This sale will appeal to John's fans who fancy a little bit of John in their life, or just somebody looking for high quality items at reasonable prices. To find out more about the sale on the 31st March you can contact Dogs Trust Cowbridge direct on 01446 774423, or pop in to see them at 62 Eastgate, or visit their website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) (See image I).



Celebrating 25 years!

Q

COLOURS



See our friends on page 7

### Silver for Colours...

Glyn and Christina Ashfield celebrate 25 years of Colours!

Their popular boutique boasts a hue of seasonal shades with the latest fashion 'must-haves' in ladies clothing, plus shoes and accessories.

Offering a popular image to suit all sizes and ages. Special occasion, cruise wear, general holiday attire and the 'feel good' factor.

A polite and professional service is assured, plus a personal shopper service.

Please feel free to browse the latest styles from Pomodora, Miss Baron, In Town, and SJ collection by Monaco.

Call at 66, High Street, CF71 7AB. Tel: 01446 774620. (See image Q).





## Tuesday 27 & Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 March

### E91 Classic

Labels:  
Armani Collezione,  
St John,  
MaxMara,  
Nicole Fahri, Lamberto  
Losani.

23 High Street,  
Cowbridge CF71 7AE  
Tel: 01446 772046  
(See Image A)

(A)



### High Street Jewellers

High Street Jewellers is situated in the heart of Cowbridge, within an easy walk of parking, cafes and the local shops.  
Established in Cowbridge for more than 26 years, we pride ourselves on being a family-run business, with a friendly, warm welcome to all. Specialising in valuations, watch and jewellery repairs, we carry extensive ranges, including: Hot Diamonds, Clogau Gold, Lladro, Giorgio Martello.

We would be delighted to see you, so pop in and see us at 16 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AG; telephone 01446 773673.  
www.high-street-jewellers.co.uk (See image D)

### Congratulations - 20th Anniversary Melanie's Health and Beauty Salon!

Operating from within Marooned Hair Cutters, Melanie Jane Fish rejuvenates her clients with her popular range of facials and treatments. Favouring the Guinot range of products, range this spring, their Cosmeology skincare range this spring.  
Coming soon... a special 'demo day' for her exciting DermaCo Pro System. This multi therapeutic state of the art technology incorporates LED Light Therapy for problem skin conditions plus general circulation, facial toning and firming, fine lines and wrinkle reduction solutions.  
For gift vouchers and treatment packages call 01446 774255 - 52a High Street. (See image E)

### La Mercerie...

Knitting has enjoyed a revival over the last few years with some famous devotees like Uma Thurman and Julia Roberts. Traditional hand knits are still popular, but if you want individuality, there are some fantastic yarns and patterns around right now. I stock a range of yarns hand dyed here in Wales by the Old Piggy, perfect for colourful shawls. I also stock yarns and patterns from Bergere de France, translating French chic into an absorbing pastime with a perfect end result. If you haven't picked the needles up for a while, now's the time to get going! Feel free to browse at 1, Penny Lane, CF71 7EG, Tel 01446 772055 (See image C)

### Jensen Sports

Bringing sport alive... Cricket Specialists • Rugby & Football • Running/Swimming/Fitness • Gymnastics & Ballet Wear • Rackets/Hockey Sticks • Baseline/Official UA Stockist • Schoolwear  
Specialist independent sports retailer for virtually all your sporting requirements.  
One Stop Shop 01446 773039  
50 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AB  
www.jensensports.co.uk Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm. Free parking at rear. (See image K)

### Pebble...

Based at Town Hall Square, Cowbridge and 73 Newton Road, Mumbles, and stocks lifestyle clothing for men and women. New in for this season we have Musto, which is a sailing and equestrian heritage brand with Zara Phillips as the face. We also have Quba Sails which is a family run label based in Salcombe. Other favourites include Odd Molly, Avoca and Avoca nest, Henri Lloyd, White Stuff, Seasalt, French Connection and Great Plains. All clothes to suit outdoor and indoor living and labels that aspire to make people look amazing.  
Tel: 01446 772127.  
(See image H)

### Betty and Jack

Betty and Jack is a children's boutique with a difference, selling new and pre-loved clothing with more than affordable price tags - brands such as Ralph Lauren, Kenzo and Timberland, to name but a few.

We also have a new range of gorgeous pyjamas, babygros, dresses, cardigans etc and also Newborn gifts and toys, handmade cards and patchwork quilts. With a play and drawing area for the children, it means you can browse at your leisure. Soon stocking children's furniture.

Now stocking handmade best quality around thick cotton Jubilee bunting, perfect for your street party! Call 27 High Street, CF71 7AE. Tel: 01446 772184.

### Ears & Whiskers

Ears&Whiskers is a small mother and daughter run company currently trading in Happy Days, Cowbridge.

Owners Sophie and Helen are passionate about the ethics of the company and are, therefore, sourcing and producing quality vintage and up-cycled clothing and accessories to bring forth the eco revolution. They have recently expanded into the wedding market, making beautiful one-off dresses from recycled fabrics and selling stunning vintage originals.

Not only does vintage and hand-made give your eco-conscience a rest, it also puts your uniqueness to work.

They never make more than one of the same item and they pride themselves on individuality. Call to see us in Church Street CF71 7BB or phone Sophie and Helen on 07786 731561 or 07714 255076. (See image N)

(D)



(E)



(C)



ABOVE: Year-7 and 8 Cowbridge pupils will be involved in a fashion event.

While all this preparation work is taking place, some of the school's best bands will be playing in the Duke.

At around 7.30pm, the seniors will head over to the Fashion Week marquee at The Bear Hotel to put on their fashion show.

Students have been helped to co-ordinate the event by Debbie Leigh of HubCowbridge, with support from Tenovus, The Dogs Trust and British Red Cross, Sophie Creed, and Pocketful of Presents, who are all supplying secondhand clothes and accessories to try on and buy on the night.

Debbie added: "Select Convenience are sorting and delivering refreshments, Fich and Ramous have given their time to do hair, nails and make up and it wouldn't have all come together without the assistance of the school's DT and music department".

Entrance to the Duke of Wellington event is £3 and up to five items can be brought to swish. Proceeds are being shared between the school's Goedgedacht Trust, Ty Hapus and HubCowbridge. The seniors fashion show at the marquee is open to the public by donation.

That hectic Friday is not the end of fashion week - because it culminates in another fashion show and evening meal in the Bear Hotel on Saturday evening.

This will bring down the curtain on a hectic week that will bring glamour and style to the town, and welcome funds for the week's nominated charity, Ty Hapus!

Enjoy...

## Cowbridge Fashion Walkabout

(H)



(K)



(N)

(P)



### Fich and Ramous...

This summer will see an exciting range of styles and colours, from vibrant block colours, to dip dyed dual colouring techniques; and set to do a return are high classic buns with an edgy twist.

Come along to Fich and Ramous for an exciting new look or book in for a complimentary Hair Extension Consultation throughout April using renowned Great Lengths real hair system. We are proud to have launched our first ever Royalty Card for ALL our clients and we will be supporting Cowbridge fashion week, starting with a warm welcome and glass of bubbly on the Champagne trail, Thursday March 29, 5-7pm at 75 Eastgate, CF71 7AA.

www.fichandramous.com, Tel: 01446 775522

Facebook: Fichand-Ramous, Twitter: fich\_and\_ramous (See image P).

(T)



### Vadatelier shows latest styles...

Cowbridge Hair Salon Vadatelier will be styling models throughout Cowbridge Fashion Week and, having just returned from working at London Fashion Week, owners Trystan Lewis and Dai Pritchard will be showing off some of the latest styles for this season.

Using the high skills and experience of the team, south Wales' only independent Vidal Sassoon Partnership Salon, and the only salon in Cowbridge open seven days a week, Vadatelier guarantees the highest standards, but at an affordable price at 17 High Street.

Tel: 01446 771089 - www.vadatelier.com  
(See image T)

(B)



E91 Labels:  
Issa, Missoni, D&G,  
Milly, Halston Heritage...  
91 Eastgate CF71 7AA.  
Tel: 01446 772241  
(See Image B)



# SWIMMING CLUB TAKE PART IN POSTAL SWIM (and help charity!)

RECENTLY the swimmers at Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the annual Long Distance Postal Swim, which is run by the British Long Distance Swimming Association.

Over half of the club took part in this event, which is fantastic. It takes place throughout the whole of the country for swimmers of all ages and abilities during January and February.

The aim of the event is to see how far the swimmers can swim in one hour. The swimming club uses this event as a marker every year to see how the swimmers are improving with their stamina and swimming abilities.

This year, as in the past, they have surpassed themselves, swimming fantastic distances in some cases for such young swimmers.

We also decided to use this event to raise much needed funds for the Breast Cancer Unit at Llandough Hospital with the 'Lengths4Life' event.

14-year-old Georgia Looker, who has swam this event every year since we started it in 2008, swam a fantastic 161 lengths of the Barry Leisure Centre swimming pool, which is a distance of 4,025 meters, and she swam the greatest distance of any swimmer this year in the club.

Swimming the event for the first time having only joined the club a month ago, our youngest swimmer Kate Parry, who is only seven, swam a distance of 1,075 meters, which is 47 lengths of the pool.

Ellie Ingram, who is eight, swam 2,425 meters, which was a massive improvement from last year by 525 meters (19 lengths).

Nine-year-old Caitlin Williams, swimming the event for the first time having not long joined the club, swam a distance of 2,050 meters, which is 83 lengths.

Rosa Bertini, who is nine, swam this event for the second time. She swam a distance of 2,425 meters and improved her distance by a massive 26 lengths (650 meters).

11-year-old Mollie Hopkins completed a distance of 2,650 meters (106 lengths). First timer Millie Wiggins, who is 10, swam a distance of 2,800 meters (112 lengths).

Having a fantastic swim was Ruby Davies, aged 10, who improved her distance by 925 meters, swimming a distance of 2,975 meters (119 lengths).

Naomi Hills, aged 11,



The swimmers proudly show off their certificates.

who is another new swimmer to the club, swam 109 lengths (2,725 meters). This is a very good distance for such a new swimmer, improving her distance by a fantastic 20 lengths.

11-year-old Bethan Williams swam 3,550 lengths (142 lengths) of the pool. Llinos Goodland, aged 12, swam a distance of 3,300 meters (132 lengths) which was an impressive improvement on last year by 15 lengths (375 meters).

13-year-old Briana Williams swam 115 lengths (2,875 meters), again another swimmer who made an improvement on last year, this time by seven lengths (175 meters).

Swimming a fantastic distance of 3,325 meters was Ffion Vickers, aged 13, which is 133 lengths, an improvement of 11 lengths. Menna Jones, aged 14, swam a very good distance of 3,025 meters (121 lengths).

Olivia Insole, aged 14, also improved on last year by swimming a distance of 3,150 meters. Swimming the same distance and also beating their siblings were Grace Insole (11) and Alex Hopkins (13), who swam a distance of 135 lengths (3,375 meters). Again, both swimmers improved on last year's distance.

Ffion Goodland, aged 14, who has entered this event each of the five years we have participated, swam a distance of 142 lengths (3,550

meters). She improved by four lengths on last year. The first time she swam the event in 2008 she completed 80 lengths of the pool (2,000 meters), so the improvement is vast.

One of the parents took part again this year, Claire Parry, who swims for Cardiff Masters, and swam a distance of 144 lengths (3,600 meters).

Swimming for the first time in the event Monty Griffiths, who is only seven, swam a distance of 2,100 meters (84 lengths), a very good effort for someone so young. Ben Curran, aged eight, managed to swim a distance of 1,900 meters, and his brother Liam, aged 11, completed 85 lengths (2,125 meters).

Louis John (nine), competing for the first time like many others, managed to swim 1,950 meters. Ben Wilson, aged 11, put in a great effort and swam 86 lengths (2,150 meters). With a vast improvement on last year, Thomas Pugh, aged nine, swam 98 lengths, which was 33 more than last year, for a distance of 2,450 meters.

Nine-year-old Iestyn Perkins swam a fantastic distance of 2,500 meters (100 lengths of the pool). Tomas Vass, aged 10, completed 101 lengths (2,525 meters).

One of the largest improvements of the year was by 10-year-old Jacob Davies, who swam a distance of 2,800 meters, a fantastic improvement of 875 meters. Sam Hills, aged

15, who has only been in the club a few weeks like his sister, put in a very good effort and swam 2,600 meters.

Nine-year-old Tom Insole made an improvement on last year by swimming a distance of 2,625 meters. Sam Smith, aged 11, completed 120 lengths (3,000 meters), improving by 18 lengths. 10-year-old Luke Birnage swam a distance of 3,100 meters. Jack Parry, aged 12, and Declan Ewington, aged 10, both swam a distance of 3,250 meters (130 lengths). Both of the boys improved on last year's distance.

Ryan Connor (12) put in a great effort and swam 142 lengths (3,550 meters), improving by 17 lengths on last year. Ryan was just beaten to the 'top male

swimmer' by 12-year-old James Hamer, who completed one more length to swim 3,575 meters.

Unfortunately, two of our swimmers had to drop out during the event. Seven-year-old Ben Ewington, who was on for 100 lengths, completed 50 lengths in just 30 minutes. Having got very bad cramp and trying to swim on, Jonathan Hagggett had to give up with only 15 minutes to go, but he had completed 95 lengths. It was such a shame for both swimmers but well done for giving it a go.

A big thank you must go to all the helpers during the event as without them it would not be able to be run.

Also, thank you to Sarah Edward, who is helping to organise the

'Lengths4Life' fund raising event, for handing out t-shirts and certificates to all the swimmers.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sunday and Cardiff International Pool on Monday and Thursday.

For more information please also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website. **TW**

## Dyspraxia support

**THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, April 2 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.**

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website: [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk), and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

# Electrical apprentice through to UK finals



Rebecca Cleary and Mitchell Fairleigh.



Jack Lansdown receiving his certificate from Celia Matthews of HIP

A CARDIFF and Vale College student has won the Welsh finals of a competition to find the best electrical apprentice and will now go on to represent Wales in the UK finals.



Charlie Girard receiving his certificate.

Mitchell added: "It was fantastic to win and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the competition. I'm really looking forward to the final now." He will also represent CACV at the WorldSkills competition to be held at Gower College Swansea in April.

Meanwhile, two plumbing apprentices were commended in the Welsh finals of a parallel competition: Jack Lansdown, 22 from Llantwit Major, and Charlie Girard, 20, from Cardiff, took part in the HIP! UK Apprentice of the Year competition.

Charlie will also now go on to represent the college at the WorldSkills Competition in April.

## AGE CONCERN ADVICE

**TRADING Standards officers will be available to give advice on Tuesday March 27 at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry between 10am and 12 noon. Contact 01446 732385 for details.**

# Castleland sports gift

**CASTLELAND Football Club has announced that it has been successful in obtaining £938 from the Sports Council for Wales to support continued development of the club.**

Matthew Dee of Castleland Community Centre said: "Funds will be used to provide new balls and other equipment, plus advanced training for adult community volunteers.

"The club will also be able to train two young people as football coaches in support of ongoing activities."

The club is based at Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, and will re-open shortly following the completion of refurbishment of the centre.

If you would like to join the club or are interested in becoming a young coach, please contact: Matthew Dee, Castleland Community Centre, 01446.701285.



# This Contraband is well worth a smuggle!

**L**AST year's *The Fighter* was something of a rarity for Mark Wahlberg; having come to prominence in *Boogie Nights*, his subsequent films played more on his star persona than they did his acting ability.

Whether *The Fighter* marks a move into more substantial fare for the actor, who excels when pushed (see *The Departed*) remains to be seen, but he is on familiar ground with *Contraband*.

Wahlberg plays Chris, a former smuggler who is embroiled back into his old life when his wife's (Kate Beckinsale) younger brother (Caleb Landry Jones) dumps an illegal package belonging to local criminal Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi). Calling on help from best friend Sebastian (Ben Foster), Chris must try and smuggle counterfeit money or else his brother-in-law, and his family, are all at risk...

It seems that you are never far from a caper/heist movie, whether they be gritty and realistic (David Mamet's excellent *Heist*) or light-hearted and popcorn fodder (the *Oceans* films, *Tower Heist*).

*Contraband* is a film

that aims for the former, and by and large succeeds at delivering a little extra bite to proceedings, enlivening the usual hallmarks of the genre and making for an above average film.

*Contraband* is actually an English-language take on the Icelandic film *Reykjavik-Rotterdam*, with that film's lead Baltasar Kormakur in the director's chair here, and he does a decent job, capturing the grit and grime of the smuggling life while throwing in some pleasing visual touches that give the film scope and drama.

Kormakur is on something of a hiding to nothing, given how close to the rules of the heist movie the film clings to, both in terms of characters and set-up, but he at least tries to put a different slant on proceedings and offers the film a little more polish than you would expect.

The cast work gamely with their stereotypical characterisations and, in the main, come out okay; this is very much a case of a dependable cast doing a dependable job.

Mark Wahlberg often makes for a finer supporting actor than a lead, but brings a bull-headed sense of responsibility to the character of Chris and delivers a

## SCREEN TALK



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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performance that suits the film wonderfully, less a masterclass in nuanced acting and more an exercise in masculine gravitas.

Alongside him, Ben Foster is as ever watchable and strong as the best friend to Wahlberg's character, again not exactly breaking new ground with his performance but delivering what is needed when it is needed, while the same can be said of Giovanni Ribisi, letting loose with an unhinged

display that lacks any solid foundation, the actor enjoying the opportunity to cut loose but lacking much in the way of grounding.

With the likes of JK Simmons, Diego Luna and Luka Haas all showing up in solid supporting roles, it's Kate Beckinsale who gets the shortest shrift here.

Despite the *Underworld* franchise and poor choices providing evidence to the contrary, the Brit really can act, but with her character being severely underwritten here, she is reduced to being the sympathetic wife/damsel in distress - a waste of her time and talents.

Aaron Guzikowski is the man tasked with adapting the original for mainstream audiences, and while he does a decent job, again he bogs himself down in paying too much attention to genre convention and not enough to inventive characters and situations.

The plot twists are based too easily on contrivance and chance, while anyone paying close enough attention should be able to spot the solutions to Chris and co's problems almost straight away.

But for all its over-familiarity, *Contraband* still manages to entertain to the end, and while hardly the most demanding or original of films, makes for a more than passable evening's entertainment.

**VERDICT** - A decent thriller that sometimes feels a little too familiar.

*Contraband* is nevertheless a satisfying way to spend two hours in a cinema. With Mark Wahlberg and Ben Foster leading a solid cast, and Baltasar Kormakur giving the film a little more style, *Contraband* is well worth a watch.

Enjoyable.  
**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *The Italian Job* (2003), *Inside Man* (2006)

## Newydd in the top 100



Newydd staff litter picking on one of their estates to benefit the community.

*THE Newydd Housing Association is celebrating, after being declared one of the 100 best not-for-profit organisations to work for, in an awards scheme run by The Sunday Times.*

*The housing association, which made the top 100 list on its first attempt at entering the awards, came sixth for small organisations.*

*It was recognised for supporting its staff to achieve a good work and life balance. It was 17th overall on promoting health and wellbeing initiatives in the work place.*

## Health Board's new chief executive

**CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board (UHB) has appointed law graduate Adam Cairns, currently chief executive at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust, as its new chief executive.**

Mr Cairns, who will take over the UHB helm later in the year, will succeed outgoing chief executive Jan Williams, who retires at the end of March.

Prior to taking up chief executive roles, Mr Cairns spent 11 years in director roles at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Chairman David

Francis said he was delighted that Cardiff and Vale had been able to secure such a high-calibre appointment:

"Our current chief executive, Jan Williams, was always going to be a tremendously hard act to follow but, in Adam, I believe we have found an admirable successor."

"He has the vision, energy and drive to build on the strong foundations Jan has laid, and to meet our aspiration of becoming an internationally recognised centre of excellence for quality of care, performance and innovation."

## Brynmor stars for Ty Hafan

**COWBRIDGE resident, former Wales and British Lions rugby star and broadcaster, Brynmor Williams, has stepped back in time - to play the part of a TV action hero to support the Ty Hafan hospice.**

Brynmor, who is a director of Thomas Carroll Group plc, has joined fellow directors to play 'The Insurers' in a spoof viral video based on 1970s TV programmes *The Protectors* and *The Persuaders*.

The team's mission is to raise £40,000 for Ty Hafan to commemorate the financial services

group's 40th anniversary this year.

They appear in a trailer, which goes on viral release this week, together with a behind-the-scenes video of its making, which can be viewed at [www.theinsurers1972.org](http://www.theinsurers1972.org)

Brynmor plays the part of Harry Lion, sporting a leather jacket, flares, and an Elvis wig and glasses.

He is joined in 'The Insurers' by fellow Wales star and rugby broadcaster Robert Jones, who is also a director of Thomas Carroll.

## Skills and enterprise on the breakfast menu

**LAST Friday, the Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert AM, and Principal of Cardiff and Vale College, Mike James, spoke at Jane Hutt's annual Spring Breakfast on the college's Barry site in Colcott Road.**

There were opportunities for business, students, headteachers, councillors, the Careers Service and the Barry Regeneration Board to discuss future skills and enterprise prospects for the Vale.

Students from the hospitality department at the college prepared and served breakfast for the participants, who heard about plans for expansion of learning and skills opportunities for

young people through the college and the Welsh Government programmes such as Skills Growth Wales. These will provide 4,000 new job opportunities each year for the next three years for 16-25-year-olds from the beginning of April, and an expansion of apprenticeship places with the college and employers.

Ms Hutt said: "The event provided guests with the opportunity to hear more about expanding plans for further education and apprenticeships - as well as meeting the new Principal of the Cardiff and Vale College, Mike James, who has hit the ground running with his extensive experience and commitment to the Vale skills and enterprise community."

## Remember the countryside code!

**I**WONDER how many people who enjoy the delights of the countryside, the fresh air and the freedom forget, when they are walking their dog, their responsibilities to the safety of livestock and other people's property.

I am sure I am not on my own when I express my concern about people allowing their dogs to run free in fields where there are livestock.

Only this morning, I had to ask a person to put his dog on a lead as it was running free. I was surprised that as a matter of courtesy this well turned-out person had not asked permission, and when asked to put his dog on

a lead, I was informed that he did not have one and by his demeanour he had every right to be in my field.

Consequently, I had to seek legal advice - and in fact this is construed as a nuisance, especially at this time of year and certainly walking onto farm land without permission or refusing to leave when permission has been withdrawn constitutes trespass.

Legally "this tort is actionable per se without the need to prove damage" ([www.lawteacher.net/tort-law/](http://www.lawteacher.net/tort-law/))

Also as there is a public footpath running through a number of my fields, it amazes me when walkers chose to climb over a gate, rather than make use of a nearby stile.

The gates are easy to open and

are not padlocked, but still they would rather break the bar of a gate when climbing over than use the facility provided for them.

Unfortunately, they also leave their empty bottles and cans under the hedges. I am sure they do not realise that horses are intelligent and curious animals and will investigate anything shiny, and before you know it they will have glass in their foot or worse. I find that totally irresponsible.

It is a great shame that there are a small minority of people who have no respect for the farmer, his animals or the fields that they walk through, and give other genuine walkers a bad name.

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## NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

## YOUNG GYMNASTS ARE ON TOP FORM

EACH team from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg that competed in the recent county gymnastics competition achieved success.

The senior boys team was first, the junior boys and senior girls teams were second, and the junior girls team was third.

In the senior boys individual competition, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg had a clean sweep with Iwan Mephram coming first, Rhidian Mephram second and Emyr Byrne third.

Ffion Byrne was also third in the senior girls individual competition.

Following their success at the county gymnastics competition, Megan McIntyre, Rhys Beynon, Joseff Williams, Ffion Byrne, George Connelly, Emyr Byrne, Rhidian Mephram and Iwan Mephram have all made it into the Cardiff and the Vale team and will go on to compete in the national competition.

### Welsh Junior Masterchef

YEAR-10 pupils Menna George, Ryan James and Alan Evans competed in the south Wales preliminary round of the Welsh Junior Masterchef Competition.

The 10 competitors from Saturday morning were cut down to five on the Sunday and Ryan James was successful in winning a place in the next round of the competition.

He took part in a series of master class workshops over half term, as well as staying in an apartment with nine other competitors from the north and west Wales preliminary rounds.

One competitor left the competition daily. The competition was filmed.

### Shipwreck workshop

RECENTLY, 18 pupils from our partner primary schools came to Ysgol Bro Morgannwg to take part in a science workshop, along with 10 year-7 pupils.

The aim of the day was to strengthen the bridge between the schools and to give the primary pupils an opportunity to get to know the school before they start in September.

The theme was 'Shipwreck' and there were many activities to be had, such as purifying stream and sea water, creating a shelter and designing a boat.

Many thanks to Mr James Evans for leading the day.

### Bethan Gwanas

RECENTLY, Bethan Gwanas visited Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg to work with the years-7 and 8 writing squad.

They wrote some very interesting stories under her leadership and learnt how to appreciate and improve each others' work. They had a very special day in her company.

### School Eisteddfod

THIS year's School Eisteddfod was held in the Barry Memorial Hall.

The winning house was Mihangel and Harri Foster-Davies, year-12, won the Bardic Chair.



### PICTURED

#### ABOVE:

#### (Left to right)

Rhidian Mephram,  
Iwan Mephram and  
Emyr Byrne on the  
gymnastics podium.







## The Rhoose Lifeguards swim to Minehead and back – four times!

**RHOOSE Lifeguards held their annual fundraising swim last week at Fontygary Pool with a time restriction of four hours and a target of 24 miles (equivalent to the distance to Minehead and back) for each swimmer.**

For the first two hours, the youngest members of the club, ages ranging from seven to 13, got to set the pace. They had already completed the challenge before the juniors, seniors and masters even got their toes wet!

In total, the nippers swam 2,139 lengths (33.2 miles), a truly magnificent feat especially given the ages of the swimmers.

This left the older members of the club with a daunting challenge, that of equalling the total.

Thankfully, they rose to the occasion. The masters swam an impressive 1,486 lengths (23.1 miles) – just under a mile short of making it across the channel and back.

But performance of the night went to the juniors and seniors. They swam a tremendous 2,524 lengths (39.2 miles), with many individuals swimming more than 200 lengths.

The overall total distance swam was a colossal 6,149 lengths (95.5 miles, or to Minehead and back four times), an achievement of which all the participants can be proud.

In addition to being an important fundraising event, this was a fun evening and a great opportunity for members to get together and support each other. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Rhoose Lifeguards would also like to extend congratulations



Photographs show nipper and junior members of the club who took part in the sponsored swim.



to club member Karen O'Donahue-Harris, who was recently presented with three medals by Surf Life Saving GB at their Heroes of the Surf award ceremony, including Sports Person of the Year and Services to Lifesaving Sport.

If anyone would like to make a donation to Rhoose Lifeguards in respect of the sponsored swim, or are interested in joining the club, details can be found on the Rhoose Lifeguards website.

## Barry veterans take national badminton titles

**BARRY has two national badminton champions.**

Dave Stopgate, who plays for Holm View, and Chris Short, who plays for Cardiff Nomads, both came away with titles in their age groups.

Chris Short, playing in the over 40s, won the singles, mens' doubles and the mixed doubles, while Dave Stopgate won the mens' singles at over 50s and over 55s, and was runner up in both mens' doubles events.

The tournament, held in Pentrehafod, Swansea was a great success with more than 100 competitors from all over Wales.

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## NEWS FROM THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

### Ghana trip forges closer links with Barry's 'twin' school



Miss McCormick and Mr Gamble and teachers at Juaben Senior High School with some of the donated resources



Mr Gamble teaching chemistry to a class of 70!

**RECENTLY, Barry Comprehensive School teachers Miss McCormick and Mr Gamble visited Juaben Senior High School (JUASS) in Ghana.**

The trip was designed to strengthen the link between the two schools – the reciprocal partnership was started a year ago on Miss McCormick's first trip to the country and last December, two Ghanaian teachers visited Barry.

Our project aims to link areas of the curriculum at both schools, with initial links being made in art, geography and science with a view to link other subjects.

**This is their report:** Having landed in Accra, Ghana's capital city at 11pm, we travelled through the night to arrive at our hotel in Kumasi at about 4.30am. With two hours' sleep we were picked up and driven to the school. This journey was around 10 minutes by car and allowed a view of the landscape and nearby villages alongside the road.

Once we arrived at the school, we were made to feel welcome by all and were taken straight to a whole school assembly of more than 2,000 students, where we were officially welcomed and the school anthem was performed.

The school has many similarities to our own.



Miss McCormick making dye from tree bark.

I observed a chemistry practical exam which was almost identical to those tasks expected of year-12 students – though a major difference was that any late-comers to the lesson ran the risk of receiving 'the cane' as a form of punishment.

Another difference is that Juaben is a boarding school and the students are expected to be awake at 4.30am when they help to clean the school site before breakfast.

Resources that were kindly donated by departments from Barry Comprehensive and the local community were given to the school. These were extremely well received and will have a positive impact on the learning of the students at JUASS.

During the week, we met many people, teacher and students. We were able to observe different lessons and some exams. In order to set up a joint science

project about climate change I was able to teach a lesson, which was a very interesting and rewarding experience.

We managed to 'Skype' a live debate between the schools, made possible by an internet connection partly funded by funds raised by Miss McCormick and the Ghana School Partnership team before Christmas, with a lap-top kindly donated by Mr Mark Stock of Paternoster Consulting of Cardiff.

The debate was a great success, with members from both teams performing admirably.

In all, the trip was extremely rewarding and interesting. It has allowed the partnership between Barry Comprehensive and Juaben Senior High School to move forward in a positive manner. Hopefully, this is a link that will last for years.



# News round-up from St Cyres School, Penarth

**Show racism the red card RECENTLY, a number of year-7 classes took part in workshops run by 'Show Racism the Red Card', an anti-racism charity established in January 1996.**

The workshops, delivered by ex-professional footballer Christian Roberts and education co-ordinator Simon Richards, tackled various forms of racism and stereotypes; interactive games explored these key messages.

The pupils showed real maturity and gave excellent feedback about their thoughts on these issues as well as learning a lot about the topic of diversity.

**Ex-pupil's top job**

**ALL the staff at St Cyres are extremely proud of ex-pupil, Amin Amin, who has been offered a prestigious job as a surgeon.**

Having excelled in his sixth form studies at St Cyres, Amin has since worked hard at university in order to achieve his dream. He said: "I am indebted to St Cyres as it provided me with experiences that I am still able to use to my advantage today."

"It is only testament to the greatness of the school that I am now one of only 14 doctors in the UK who have a golden ticket in surgical training."

"The job potentially prepares me to become

one of a small but elite number of professors of surgery and I must thank the school for giving me those foundations."

St Cyres wishes Amin a successful future in his chosen career.

**Auschwitz visit**  
**SIXTH form pupils Grace Hartrey and John McGrath, have just returned from a trip to Auschwitz, as part of an educational initiative supported by the Holocaust Educational Trust.**

The Holocaust Educational Trust invited two teenagers from every school and college in the country to see the former concentration camp at first-hand.

The Lessons from Auschwitz Project flew 300 students and teachers from Cardiff to Poland for an insight into how the Nazis treated the Jews in wartime Poland.

*This is Grace's report:*

In February, John McGrath and I were given the opportunity to visit Auschwitz, in Poland, with the Holocaust Educational Trust and Lessons from Auschwitz organisation.

This was a useful visit, as we both are studying A-level history, and we thought it would be an amazing way to put some context to everything we have been studying.

Two weeks before the planned trip to Auschwitz, we attended a seminar at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff, where we had the chance to

meet a Hungarian Holocaust survivor called Leslie Kleinman.

His story was amazing and made us all realise the individual cost of being caught up in the Holocaust. He was only 14 when he was sent on the cattle trucks, and was the only survivor out of a family of 68 to be sent to Auschwitz.

He survived being sent to the gas chamber because he lied and told the Nazi guards he was 17.

As the time came closer for the visit, we began to dread both the early morning, as well as the emotional toil the trip would take on us.

When we arrived in Krakow, after having been awake for many hours, it was clear it had been snowing and it was very cold. However, the moment we arrived at our first destination, the site of the great Jewish synagogue in Oswiecim, we knew that it was going to be worth it for the experience.

The synagogue preceded World War II, and was in the centre of the town closest to Auschwitz, which before World War II had been a predominantly Jewish town - nearly 60 per cent of the population had been Jews.

They took us here to show us the stark contrast to the life the Jews had before the war to that that they had in Auschwitz, and the years following the holocaust. After the war and to this day not one Jew lives in Oswiecim.

After this, we went on to the first of the camps in Auschwitz; Auschwitz I. Here they gave us an insight into the way the prisoners were treated at this time, and how their lives had been torn away from them.

We saw a pile of their hair, untouched since it had been taken, with plaits hidden in the mound. Women's hair was used by the Nazis to make blankets.

We also saw possessions - suitcases, glasses and prosthetic limbs of the people taken to Auschwitz.

All of this was highly emotional, as it made us realise not only the sheer scale, but also the brutality of what these people had to endure, which they didn't deserve.

It made us aware of the fact that these people had a life, friends and family, and were all individual people before the Holocaust happened.

From here, we moved on to Auschwitz Birkenau, the second camp within Auschwitz.

Here we experienced, with shock, how large the place was. They also tried to show us what the conditions would have been like, showing us the small non-insulated huts many of the prisoners would have had to

share. We saw the remains of crematoria and the railway which they would have arrived on. This is where we had our memorial service, laying down candles in respect for the millions that died, and listening to the words of Rabbi Marcus.

In fact, we were all quite stunned to be still in Auschwitz Birkenau in the dark!

John and I found the visit very enlightening, and both agree it has changed our perspective on life, as well as knowing it will benefit our school work.

Now we are back, we really appreciate the experience we had, and are learning to use what we have seen and been told, to not forget what happened and to ensure it's remembered as part of history.

**Rebekah's singing triumph**

**REBEKAH West has been chosen to perform in the National Children's Choir in the Millennium Centre on April 1. This is an incredible opportunity for the talented St Cyres pupil, who will then later fly out to Russia with the Marinsky Opera.**

Rebekah clearly has a great future ahead of her and we are very proud of her at St Cyres.

**Basketball success**

**THE St Cyres girls' under-14 basketball team played in the south-east regional finals at the Welsh Institute in Cardiff.**

They faced Treorchy in the first round, beating them comfortably 20-0 with some excellent baskets from Carys Allen and Lydia Gardner.

The girls had a tougher game against Glantaf, only winning by two points with some excellent running from Emily Hill and Autumn Boswell.

The St Cyres team then had to play a very competitive game against Cwm Rhymney. They had two exceptionally tall players who nudged them ahead, but baskets from Carys levelled the score.

Gabby Wilson then came on and scored a crucial basket. Team fouls were given away by both teams but St Cyres did enough in the end to hang on for the win: 13-9.

In the final, the St Cyres girls were beaten by last year's national champions.

All the girls in the squad played a part in the final and all received a runners up medal. SB



## Celebration time at the Cadoxton Primary School

**THESE pictures were taken as pupils at Cadoxton Primary School celebrated St David's Day during which Ashley Andrews was chosen as Bard.**



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## Barrivale Bridge Club news

**THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are: March 13; First - Mick Green and Mike Best, 67.19 per cent; Second - Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, 58.85 per cent; Third - Adrian Thomas and Mike Close, 58.33 per cent. Irene and Graham won on handicap.**

**New members always welcome at Barrivale. Telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.**

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ABOVE: These cubs kicked for charity - they would do Leigh Halfpenny proud!

## Cubs kick for Ty Hafan



### LOCAL rugby cubs have recently been involved in raising funds for Ty Hafan.

Their sponsored event involved kicking conversions over their mini sized rugby posts in a 15-minute slot.

The boys and girls, aged between three and seven years old, have spent several weeks practicing for this fundraiser and honing their skills, and the coaches Sam Middlemiss, Jake Connelly and Charlie Waller have all been really impressed with how hard the children have worked and their improvement.

Class manager Miff Connelly said: "The children have worked so hard in raising money for

this important charity that is very close to all our hearts. I am so proud of all they have achieved in terms of their rugby skills and how much money they raised, but the emphasis was on having fun, and I think we had that in bucketfuls!"

The event was spread across the classes in Penarth and Barry and managed to raise over £400 for Ty Hafan.

The rugby cub who kicked the most conversions was Cai Beasley (Barry) and the rugby cub who raised the most amount of money was Jacob Hall (Penarth); well done to you both, and enjoy your new size 2 Cardiff Blues balls!

## Barry under-9s lose their unbeaten record

### BARRY Bees under-9s travelled to Llantwit Fardre.

After an unbeaten run of 14 games the Bees were in a confident mood, but knew they were facing their toughest test of the season, against an unbeaten Llantwit Fardre.

The first match was against the development team and the Bees were in rampant form.

Early tries from Stephen Williams, Cole Saunders and Isaac McBride set the tone of the game.

Llantwit Fardre never gave up, but the Bees were too strong in all facets of the game. Further tries from Rhys Lloyd (2) and another two from Cole, made the final score 7-1.

The second game against the first team, proved to be a step too far. The Llantwit Fardre boys were bigger and stronger, and with their slick ball handling and pace were extremely difficult to contain.

The Bees battled extremely hard in the first half and their defence kept them in the game; but they were struggling to make any headway in

## Imps' celebrations continue at a pace!

CADOXTON Imps AFC are this year celebrating the magnificent milestone of 40 years since the club was first founded by Graham Harris back in 1972 with a team of 10 year olds in the Youth Section of the old Barry & District League.

To celebrate this great achievement, the club are organising a series of events throughout the year, the first of which is a 40 year reunion party being held

at the club's spiritual home of Cadoxton Conservative Club, Vere Street, Cadoxton on Friday, April 6. Tickets cost £3 per person available from the contacts below or from any Imps Manager or committee member.

All past present (and future!) Cadoxton Imps players, managers, committee members or any one else with any connection to the club, however remote and from whatever era, are most welcome to come along to see some old faces and meet some new ones.

If you have any pho-

tographs that are not in the current edition of the history book then please contact one of us below to incorporate them in the new and updated edition that is planned as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations.

Contact Martin Pursall (mpursall@berrysmith.co.uk) 07733318093; Gary Spierling (caddyimps@msn.co.uk) 07717357982; or Len Jones (ljones6@virginmedia.co.uk) 01446 739867.

MP

## Barry Bombettes in good away victory

ON a beautiful sunny afternoon, Barry Ladies travelled away on Sunday to play a freshly formed Maesteg Ladies team.

The Bombettes had a healthy away support and coupled with the large Celtic home crowd, both teams provided a cracking game of committed

rugby.

From a Barry scrum the forwards drove into the Maesteg defence in a text book training move providing the space out wide for K Jones to feed Yapp, who finished brilliantly underneath the posts; Jones kicked the two points for the conversion easily.

The Celtic No 9 broke down the blind side and scored in the corner, for a deserved try, which was

unconverted.

Half time came with Barry leading 5-7.

Following good play by J Jones, hooker Bindley, Cahill and Richards, the Barry pack found themselves with an attacking scrum 10 metres out.

Good use of the blind side resulted in No 8 Cole picking up and driving over the line. The able K Jones converted well - 14-5 to Barry.

From the last play of the game Bannister fed Rees and with a couple of dummies went over unopposed to score Barry's third try.

Jones narrowly missed the conversion making the final score Maesteg 5, Barry Ladies 19.

Barry's woman of the match was Charm Hill; Maesteg choose K Jones.

Team: Hill, Morgan, B Jones, Yapp, K Jones, Rees, Bannister, Nation, Cole, Boffy (captain), Garner-Joel, Cahill, Bindley, Horne, Richards and J Jones.

AM

## Under-14s not close enough

DESPITE an agonisingly close game against a heavier and much more physical side, Barry under-14s' run in this year's Blues Cup competition came to an end last Sunday.

In what was undoubtedly their best performance to date Barry went down to last year's finalists Rhiwbina 5-0.

A nervous start from the visitors allowed Rhiwbina to cross the

whitewash for what was to be the only score of the game, but Barry then showed their mettle and dug deep to give a performance that had the whole squad, coaching team and parents bursting with pride.

This was a real bruising encounter with the Cardiff side expecting a more comfortable win but the size of the effort put in by the Barry 15 dwarfed even the biggest player on the opposition side.

Time after time and ruck after ruck the Barry forwards delivered to a man. This allowed the backs to punch into the Rhiwbina defence but unfortunately they couldn't cross the try-line.

With the game at 5-0 at the end of the first half, Barry knew that to come away with a ticket to the Blues Cup semi finals would need a monumental effort.

The under-14s were a credit to themselves and their discipline was unquestionable and their commitment unreserved, but despite their huge endeavours they were unable to claw back the score.

The boys must take a great deal of confidence from this game and they now know they can compete with some of the best sides around. Excellent effort Barry!

If you are interested in playing for Barry under-14s please contact Ioan Evans on 07764 256428.

IE

## Memorial match proves to be a tough encounter

THE Seventh Nigel Westall Memorial Charity Game was played between Sully Sports RFC and Sully RFC on February 25.

The day saw a hard-fought game between both sides, with Sully Sports retaining the trophy for the sixth year.

Thanks again go to Dave Brown of Buildex Construction for the team shirts, Michael Mees of Mesmerise Flooring for sponsoring the entertainment, CASS Scaffolding for the match ball and not forgetting all players and supporters on the day.

RIGHT: The memorial game was a tough encounter for a good cause.



## BARRY ATOMS IN A SEESAW ENCOUNTER

ST PETERS faced Barry Atoms on Sunday.

In the first game, the Atoms came out with intent and quickly scored a try through D.Wall. No sooner had we time to catch our breath than St Peters came straight back with a try of their own through a quick break.

D.Griffiths scored then St Peters came straight back. Man of the match J.Parry saw out the first half with a try.

In the second half Griffiths scored again,

St Peters replied, and back to the Atoms with a J.Parry try.

St Peters threw everything and despite some good tackling scored again in this close game. Final score: Atoms 5 St Peters 4

In the second game, Atoms scored first through a fine solo run by newest recruit J.Woodiwiss. then St Peters replied.

Parry scored but back came St Peters again with another try. It looked as if nobody was able to hold onto a lead.

J.Reid scored, St Peters responded, then Z.Fiffeld scored.

Despite another St Peters score, tries by J.Reid and J.Woodiwiss and a final score from St Peters closed the game out.

Final score: Atoms 6 St Peters 5.

Squad: J. Couch, R. Rendell, J. Parry, C. Denbury, O. Smith, E. Galsworthy, Z. Fiffeld, D. Griffiths, M. Boffy, F. Samad, D.Wall, J. Woodiwiss, I.Escott, F. Giosanu, J. Reid.

DD

## Katherine is top Welsh trampolinist

A CARDIFF and Vale College student is set to represent Wales at a national trampolining tournament later this month.

Having won the Welsh Colleges competition in trampolining, Katherine Benson will travel to Bath University for the British Colleges Sport National Finals. Some 25,000 people take part in the event each year.

The 18-year-old from Dinas Powys is studying for a BTEC Diploma in Sport and Science. Katherine said: "I'm really excited about winning this competition. I was a bit nervous at first but as soon as I started it got better and I enjoyed myself. I'm nervous and excited at the same time all over again about going to the finals in



Katherine Benson

Bath because representing Wales is such a great honour.

"I've had a big interest in trampolining from a young age - I started when I was about eight so I've been doing it has been nearly ten years since the very first time I got on a trampoline."

Katherine would like to progress on to a Sport Science course at University once she has finished at college, and is interested in a career as a physiotherapist.

## Take on a special golf challenge for the RSPB

THE RSPB is looking for golfers who are willing to take on a marathon one-day charity challenge - 72 holes in one day around four top local courses.

Entitled the 'RSPB Cymru Dawn Chorus', it will take place on Monday, 18 June, starting at dawn at Radyr Golf Club, and finishing at Cardiff Golf Club at sunset, with a full round at both Whitchurch and St Mellons Golf Clubs in between.

Sue Pickin, senior community fundraiser for RSPB Cymru said: "Today, some of our most loved wildlife and wild places face grave threats."

"Farmland and woodland birds in Wales are in grave decline, and RSPB Cymru's special sites are in dire need of invest-

ment.

"Everyone needs to act now so that everyone in Wales, young and old, get to experience the full wonder of nature."

She continued: "By entering a team of three to play all day in our dawn chorus event, you'll have fun and support the vital work at the same time."

"The maximum number of teams for this event is 12, and allocations will be made on a first come, first served basis."

"Anyone interested should telephone me on 02920 353009 or email sue.pickin@rspb.org.uk to reserve a place."

The entry fee is £250 per team, which covers the cost of green fees and on the day costs, but does not make a profit for us.

"Therefore, we would ask that each team raise as much sponsorship for the event as possible."



## BETTWS EDGE OUT VISITORS AS...

# Dinas slip in the league after disappointing loss

**THIS below par performance by Dinas brought an end to their good run of form and cost them two places in the league table down to fifth.**

The visitors started brightly enough with wide men Liam Jeremy and Robbie Fowler both attacking down the flanks and they had an early chance when Steffan Davies headed a ball on to Gareth Tedstone but his shot was straight at Mark Elliott, the Bettws keeper.

Steve Provis then fell heavily on his shoulder but continued after treatment. Bettws grad-

ually got into the game and Anthony Bale had a half chance but shot high over the bar. The Referee seemed to be letting the game flow despite some hefty challenges from the home side which angered the Dinas management team.

Johnathon Thomas and Damian Barnard were using their pace well for Bettws and one deep cross from Thomas looked dangerous but was shepherded out for a goal kick by the Dinas defence, and Damien Lack had to smother the ball from a corner after parrying the initial kick.

Dinas left back Mike Lewis threaded a lovely ball through for

Tedstone to run onto but his shot was off target and a free kick from Adam Raymond out wide on the right also found Tedstone but again his effort was off target, this time with a header - and the inevitable happened.

Bettws attacked and Liam Davies got a shot away which took a deflection off a defender to wrong foot Lack and open the scoring just on half-time.

Dinas pressed hard for most of the second half but Bettws got men behind the ball and made things difficult.

Tedstone had another chance with 30 minutes remaining, driving through the defence but his shot was saved by Elliott.

Manager Dunford then brought on new signing Barrie Parker for Provis and Dinas stepped up the pressure with Steffan Davies reacting first to a corner to bring a diving save from Elliott.

A goalmouth scramble looked as if Dinas must get on even terms with shots going in from Davies and Parker before Tedstone fired just over the bar and Bettws breathed a sigh of relief.

Central defender Dave Penikett then found Parker with a good ball but he was pushed out wide on the right before he could get his shot away and although it was on target, Elliott gathered comfortably.

Manager Dunford came on himself for the last 5 minutes but time ran out and the home side, although still in the relegation dog fight, had taken three valuable points.

Dinas entertain Treharris Athletic Western at The Murch this Saturday with a 2.30pm kick off and will be looking for a much improved performance.

**Dinas Squad:** 1 Damien Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Keiron Harman, 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Dave Penikett (c), 6 Adam Raymond, 15 Robbie Fowler, 8 Richard Yarr, 9 Steffan Davies, 10 Gareth Tedstone, 11 Liam Jeremy, 12 Jordan Phillips, 14 Barrie Parker, 16 Mark Dunford.

Further information can be found on the club's website at [www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk](http://www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk).

PK

# Penarth Town under-15s progress to Vale Cup final

**PENARTH under-15s played their Vale semi-final at Colcot against a very strong Barry Town team in dry but cold and breezy conditions.**

From the kick-off Penarth's Caynon Bowen won the ball and passed to Brad Rosser, who made a weaving run down the left flank, before passing inside to James Woods.

He looked up and saw Jamie Hitchen 10 yards outside the box to smash the ball just inside the post from 25 yards. The perfect

start for Penarth, 1-0 up inside 60 seconds!

Stand-in keeper Mattie Roberts made one outstanding save from close-up, showing great hands from the Welsh basketball international.

The second goal came 20 minutes into the second half from a move down the right flank.

The ball was thrown smartly out of defence by Roberts, finding Rosser, who beat the first tackle and passed inside to Bowen, who turned, moved the ball onto his left foot and neatly slotted home.

Despite a series of constant

attacks the all important third goal went begging with near misses by Lehty, Keeling and Bowen which would have closed the game out.

Barry scored in injury time when the ball was not cleared from a corner.

**Squad:** Mattie Roberts, Oscar Kempton, Gethin Evans-Cooper, Tomas Havard, Tom Farmer, Luke Crompton, James-Squire Woods, Jamie Hitchen, Brad Rosser, Duncan Keeling, Caynon Bowen, Sean Rowlands, Jack Davies, Niall Murphy, Alex Gillingham, Sam Lehty.

At Roberts

## DC Cup glory for the Vale

**BRIDGEND hosted the Vale for this quarter final of the DC Thomas Cup at Pencoed RFC's ground.**

Bridgend began strongly kicking long into the Vale's half. Desperate defence seemed to thwart every possible try for the home side with great tackling by Iwan Hadfield, Barney Langdon and Evan Thomas stopped the ball being passed along the Bridgend threequarters.

Mikey Bosley was then in the clear to run in a try only for the final pass to be short.

The scores were opened with a great

move from the Bridgend side and the Vale went into the half behind 5-0.

The visitors started strongly but just could not get over the line. Their forwards now began to compete at the breakdowns and some quick ball began to flow to these talented backs.

Soon after Ruben Williams finished off a great forward display to level the scores.

Tension was building as the clock ran down as a draw would mean the away side went through.

Cleverly the Vale kicked deep into the Bridgend's 22 and the whistle blew to the roar of the visitors supporters.

MB

## 40-mile track race results

**THE official results of the Barry 40-mile track race on March 4 were:**

1. Grant Jeans, Unattached, 4:32.43; 2. Matt Shone, Woodford Green, 4:55.46; 3. Jeremy Mower (V45), Gloucester AC, 5:07.42; 4. Mark Baker (V45), Northbrook AC, 5:14.28; 5. Steve Reading, Fit For Life, 5:23.40; 6. Robin Gardner (V50), Road Runners Club, 5:31.49; 7. Rasmivan Collinson (V40), Sri Chinmoy AC, 5:36.30; 8. Charles Brent, Trail Running Association, 5:38.40; 9. Dave Halford (V50), Northbrook AC, 5:49.23; 10. Heather Fothergill-Hawker (LV45), Honiton RC, 5:50.44; 11. David Proud (V40), Les Croupiers, 6:00.44; 12. Alan Mann (V50), Les Croupiers, 6:28.08.

**Retirements:** Garfield Jones (V55), Islwyn RC, 134 laps in 6:00.46; 3. Richard Self (V45), Les Croupiers, 106 laps in 3:48.33; Natasha Doyle, Les Croupiers, 106 laps in 3:48.34; Rory Coleman (V50), 100 Marathon Club, Marathon in 3:55.21; Molly Melhuish (LV35), Unattached, 80 laps in 4:00.20; Jack Ricketts, Unattached, 61 laps in 2:23.54; Jen Salter (LV35), Les Croupiers, 55 laps in 1:40.50; Loretta Daley (LV45), Les Croupiers, 29 laps in 1:02.52. MM

## Rhose Bowling Club's open day

**THE open day at Rhose Bowling Club will take place on Saturday March 31.**

The green and clubhouse will be open at 2pm. The chairman, John Wathes, and his committee will welcome existing members and anyone wishing to try out bowls.

Club bowls will be available - all you will need is a flat pair of shoes.

The club is situated in Celtic Way and is signposted from the Font y Gary Inn; come and join them to find out how enjoyable a sport bowls is.

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- Some original features remain
- Viewing highly recommended

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### WINSTON ROAD, BARRY

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- Driveway to front
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- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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| <b>St Mary's Avenue, Barry</b><br>3 Bedroom bay fronted property. GCH, DG. Unfurnished. <b>£600pcm</b>             | <b>Davies Street, Barry</b><br>2 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH & DG. Unfurnished <b>£525 pcm</b>            |
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## Family Notices

### GRATTON

#### Reginald John David

Peacefully after a very short illness at Llandovery Hospital on March 14, Reg, formerly of Vere Street and Jenner Road, Barry.

Dearly beloved husband of Muriel, much-loved dad of Jane, father-in-law of Den, adored grandfather of James, Dawn and her husband Ron, great-grandfather of Morgan, Bethan and Ciaran, loving brother of Mary.

Resting at AG Adams and Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his service in the chapel on Monday March 26th at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

### O'LEARY

#### Peter Anthony

Peacefully at his home after a short illness on March 17, Peter (landlord of the Victoria Inn, Singingstone, formerly the landlord of The Glenbrook Inn, Barry and The Green Dragon, Llanccadle)

Devoted husband of Joan, much loved dad of Anthony and Michael, father-in-law of Leona and Beryl, loving grandfather of Daniel, Luke, Owen, Jacob, Rhys, Jade and Sam.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his reception into St Helen's RC Church, Barry, on Monday March 26 at 5.30pm for his funeral service on Tuesday March 27 at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

### MOFFITT

#### (née Moffat) Alison Catherine

It is with sad regret that we have to report, after a battle with illness, Alison passed away at her home in New Zealand on Tuesday 12th March.

She will be sadly missed by family and friends alike. Anyone that knew Alison will remember her, as she touched peoples lives. Of comfort is that she found contentment down in New Zealand in her own 'Shangri La'. She is now reunited with husband Peter, together again, and both their ashes will be scattered over the COOKE Strait, Wellington.

Our family request that should any of her friends wish to, make a donation to the Marie Curie Foundation in her name.

With love, mother Gwyneth and brothers Lindsay, Rob, Andy and families.

### BRADLEY

#### (née Thomas) Elizabeth Patricia

Suddenly on March 16th at home, beloved wife of Colin, devoted mother of Emma, Zöe and Siân, loving Granny of Amber, Dakota, Archie, Ava and Indiana, daughter of Pat and the late Hubert Thomas, sister of Ann, Chris and Sarah, mother-in-law to Donald, Gareth and Liz, friend to many.

Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church Llanblethian on Tuesday, March 27th at 2pm followed by interment. Wild or cut flowers preferred and may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major.

### JOHNSON

#### Julie Anne Marie

Peacefully on 19th March in Y-Bwthyn Newydd, Bridgend, after a long illness, Julie aged 37 years.

Much loved wife of Darryl, devoted mum to Lucy and Harry, a dearly loved daughter to Sandra and Colin Bale, a loving granddaughter to Rose, and loved sister to Karen and Mark. Julie will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major. Private family only funeral service, but if wished donations for Marie Curie, Holme Tower Hospice may be sent to the Funeral Director.

### HARRISON

#### Vera Mary

Peacefully on March 13th, Vera, loving wife of the late Harry, much loved mother of Sally and Roger, treasured grandmother and great grandmother, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, March 26th at 1.15pm followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

## Birthdays

**Happy 70th Birthday on March 23rd**

**Andy Jamieson**

*Hope you enjoyed your gift of a Grand Slam!*

**With love from all your family and friends xxx**

**Stephanie Ridler**  
on March 23, 2012

**18**  
All our love, Nanny and Bampy Rowlands, Nanny Anne and Grampy Charles, Auntie Cath and children, Auntie Helen and Uncle Rob and girls xxxx

**Steph - have a lovely 18th!**

**Stephanie Ridler**

18 on 23rd March, 2012

**With love to our Darling Daughter Steph on your 18th!**

**Lots of love, Mum & Dad xxxx**



## Anniversaries

**Happy 40th**

**Wedding Anniversary (25.3.2012)**

**Mum & Dad**  
(Jane & Greg Williams)

**Have a fab day**  
Lots of love Sam, Gwylint, Amanda, Martyn, Colin & Del, Ben, Chloe, Hayley, Jake, Dixie & Tommi xxx



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## Saints break hoodoo with close win

**AFTER four visits to Maerdy in the last two years Saints had always made the long journey back from the Rhondda empty handed.**

The Saints manager opted for a change of formation to try and combat the Maerdy home advantage and went with five across the back with Jordan Mortimore operating in a type of sweeper role and the change paid dividends as Saints' defence was magnificent.

Saints started brightly and won a corner 20 minutes in. Leigh Lewis swept in the corner that seemed to elude everybody, except Dean Cleave who endeavoured to keep the loose ball in. Controlling the ball and brilliantly beating two players on the by line, Cleave squared the ball to Phil Morgan who side footed home from a couple yards out.

Maerdy were quick to respond however, with some enviable one touch football that created an opening in the Saints' box and they in turn blasted in the equaliser.

Continuing into the second half, passion was again on display. Unfortunately Leigh Lewis' determination to win the ball back for the team high up the pitch led to an unfortunate dismissal.

Lewis was sent clear and saw his two efforts well saved but then took out his frustrations with a mistimed tackle as he tried to retrieve the ball, and after an earlier yellow for dissent, the ref had no choice but to book Lewis again and that meant a red card.

However, despite being a man down and having the odds stacked against them, Saints' set-back seemed to galvanise them.

### BRIDGEND & DISTRICT SUNDAY LEAGUE PREMIER PLAY-OFFS MAERDY FC 2 SAINTS FC 3

Around the hour mark, Saints full back, James Austin, sent the ball long down the right wing to teammate Reece Lewis. Lewis advanced into the near side of the Maerdy box and aimed a powerful cross toward Morgan.

Although, the cross did not reach the intended target, it was blocked by a Maerdy defender's hand according to the referee. Penalty! Designated penalty taker, Jordan Mortimore stepped up, and slotted the ball past the keeper to give Saints a well deserved lead.

As the minutes slowly passed, Saints couldn't resist but to resort to their usual ways of attacking play and managed to muster their own collection of chances.

On the 75th minute, Morgan collected the ball out wide and drove forward down the near side.

Morgan squared to Cleave who had gained great ground to join the attack on the far side. Saints' box to box midfielder then wonderfully curled the ball into the top right corner to put Saints two goals to the good.

With the game slipping away from Maerdy's grasp, they threw everyone forward for the last quarter. Unfortunately this effort of throwing bodies in front of shots was questionably punished by the referee as he looked to even up the penalty given for Saints earlier on.

Three men closed down a shot from just outside the box and the ref ruled that a hand was used illegally. The resulting penalty

was nearly saved by the impressive and newly starting keeper Craig Jougings (in place of non-ymooning regular Gareth Richards) who got a hand to the ball – but the ball squeezed into the net.

It looked as if the Saints would finally come away from this pitch with a victory after many failed attempts when with 30 seconds on the clock another obstacle announced itself.

The referee again adjudged that the ball had hit a Saints' hand in the penalty area. An aimless Maerdy cross brushed the hand of centre-back Gavin Morgans, with his arms clearly at his side.

Saints' keeper, Jougings stood tall and the Maerdy spot kick taker blazed it over the bar, sending the Saints' players and staff into early celebrations.

Saints were delighted to finally come away with the points from Maerdy and thoroughly deserved them after a fantastic team performance with every man playing their part brilliantly.

Special mentions this week for an incredible defensive performance from the team to a man, with Mortimore marshalling brilliantly. Man of the match though, after an assist, a fine goal and dominating – as usual – in the air was Dean Cleave.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support of the team in this new season and to The GEM.

RC

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This has even made police forces think twice – I have seen my first Ford Focus turbo diesel unmarked police car stopping a speeding motorist – who can afford to speed anymore? Think of the wasted fuel, not just the fine.

This is where the Kia Cee'd 1.6-litre diesel CRDi '2' hatchback comes into its own. It costs under £16,000 brand new, has a seven-year warranty

and returns well over 50mpg. In comparison, a VW Golf costs up to £32,000.

Comfy seats make the Cee'd a good long-distance companion. Its curvy dashboard is visually pleasing and easy to navigate although the silver edging round the central air vents reflects on the windscreen.

The model tested comes with air-conditioning and electric front windows. A very well-sized boot makes light work of my daughter's awkward pushchair.

From inside, the diesel engine can be heard on start-up but this grows quieter throughout a journey. An awkward judder occurs if a high gear is selected at low speeds but this just serves to remind the driver to choose the right gear. That six-speed gearbox can be notchy, particularly between fifth and fourth.

Externally, the rather mundane design is one which merges into the background, but this is a mid-size hatchback – if you want something



*The Kia Cee'd Hatchback.*

radical go for a coupe or an off-roader.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "It's spacious inside and the interior is modern and well-finished. Driver appeal isn't its strong point but it is safe and comfortable with a good range of engines including two excellent diesels."

Overall it's a good all round family and commuting vehicle that doesn't set the world alight but does return very pleasing mpg readings. Economy is

what it's all about these days.

As Kia plans to introduce an all-new Cee'd later this year there are sure to be attractive deals available on the current model.

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\*Modesty shown are: Prius 1.8 iVT - 3 door manual £12,299, including £1,000 saving and £250 on-site contribution from the manufacturer's list price. Prices correct at time of going to print. \*0% APR Representative only available on new retail sales of Yaris 1.6, Aygo 1.0, Auris 1.8 iVT when ordered, registered and financed between 1st February 2012 and 23rd March 2012 through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Brough Heath, Gosport, Surrey GU14 6JZ on a 3 year Access Toyota (AP) Plan with 0% - 10% deposit. Payment shown is based on a 3 year Access Toyota contract with 17.99% deposit and guaranteed future value. Optional final payment. Undermines may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18's. Excess miles over 50,000 charged at 1p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. 3 year/50,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. \*Savings are based against MSRP.



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THIRD GRAND SLAM, BUT SOMEHOW THERE IS THE  
FEELING THAT WE AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET..!

# Boys are growing into men in front of our eyes

## BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

**A**S Grand Slam euphoria finally subsides, and the nation's collective pulse rate returns to normal, the Welsh players who performed so heroically in defeating France 16-9 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, can only now begin to come to terms with the true scale of their achievement.

They had gone into the crunch Six Nations championship decider on Saturday, with a huge weight of pressure and expectation on their young shoulders, with only France barring the way to a third championship title in eight years.

Head coach Warren Gatland, who had earlier said that his team were "brimming with ruthless intent", had now demanded that they "do the Welsh nation proud"; however, they knew that recent history was against them – for France had won 10 out of their 12 previous encounters, five of them at the

Millennium Stadium itself, including the 27-17 Rugby World Cup warm-up reverse in 2007.

Then there was the shattering 8-9 loss to Les Bleus in the RWC semi-final at Eden Park, New Zealand last autumn, with some questioning the long-term psychological effect that deflating experience might have had on young players who had electrified the tournament and had come almost within touching distance of rugby's holy grail.

Such questions were emphatically answered on Saturday, for these are boys growing into men in front of our eyes. Moreover, there were other more positive pointers to be gleaned from the history books.

Just as this column has previously pointed out in the case of Wales v England, it is a remarkable statistic that despite the Dragon's two decades in the wilderness, Wales and France went into their 91st encounter on Saturday, with very little to choose between them.

Each had notched 44 wins overall, with



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!**

(Pictures by Huw Evans Agency)

three matches drawn since the opening match in Cardiff on March 2, 1908 (which Wales won 36-4 en route to a first ever Grand Slam), and were almost level pegging in total points scored – France 1,316, to Wales' 1,313.

Mind you, it's extremely doubtful that this new wave of young warriors will pay much heed to cold statistics, least of all register the fact that Wales have now inched ahead of France – as they savour a momentous third Grand Slam in eight years and start to create a glittering history of their own.

For make no mistake, this puts them on course to be placed on a par with, or one day possibly even surpass, the legendary exploits of Wales' First and Second 'golden eras' – especially given that some of the current crop are barely out of school and have many more playing years ahead of them in which to make their mark on the world stage.

Certainly, the maturity they displayed in overcoming the tough physical challenge of a durable if non-descript French team, which offered stern

defence but little Gallic flair, belied their youthful mien.

Just as they had done against Italy, Wales came out of the blocks in a rush to dominate early possession and territory; yet in a rare foray into Welsh territory, the visitors were awarded a penalty, which scrum half Dimitri Yachvili gratefully accepted.

Wales were then awarded a penalty which was taken by outside half Rhys Priestland, as the usual kicker, Leigh Halfpenny, was receiving treatment for an injury, but his effort hit the post.

With the ball being lobbed back and forth in a passable imitation of Wimbledon, right wing Alex Cuthbert suddenly brought the ecstatic crowd to its feet with a typically powerful charge over the line for a try converted by the now recovered Halfpenny.

The full back then landed a penalty – but fluffed another attempt when, shades of Priestland, it was his turn to hit the post, as the whistle sounded for a half time lead of 10-3.

Skipper Sam Warburton had taken a knock and did not

appear for the second half, being replaced by super-substitute Ryan Jones, who proceeded to give another totally-committed display, alongside man-of-the-match Dan Lydiate and the equally consistent Toby Faletau.

While Wales were clearly the dominant side, the two missed penalties and other lost opportunities made for a nervous, if totally absorbing second half among the faithful, particularly when France narrowed the gap to 10-6 with a penalty.

However, the ever-reliable Halfpenny sent over a trademark howitzer of a penalty from the halfway line to restore the seven-point margin and the crowd breathed again.

But when a third French penalty took the score to 13-9, just four points behind

Wales, the stage was set for a knuckle-whitening final eight minutes, only relieved when Halfpenny widened the gap to 16-9 with his third penalty.

It just left time for a failed drop goal attempt by Priestland before the referee blew his whistle for full time – and 74,178 delirious spectators (most of them in red) exploded with joy and relief, ready to start the Grand Slam party to end all parties.

When the celebrations finally die down and the 2012 Six Nations becomes just another page in the history books, the Welsh camp will return to the task in hand – and somehow there is the feeling that we 'ain't seen nothing yet!'

However, they also know that there is still much work to be done

before this still evolving squad can be said to have reached their full potential – and then truly take their place alongside the illustrious names of the golden '70s.

The acid test will come over the next few months when they take on the southern hemisphere giants, including the reigning world champions.

**Tribute to Merve**  
It was sad yet uplifting to see the stadium

crowd of all ages rise to pay a silent tribute to the late Mervyn Davies, rightly lauded by his '70s team mates, including Gerald Davies, JPR Williams, and former Wales and British Lions' skipper, John Dawes, as one of the greatest No 8s in the history of the game.

The teams' black armbands symbolised 'Merve the Swerve's' global stature and his assured place in the pantheon of Welsh rugby's immortals.

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